How to obtain a "JOHN BULL" PEN—See page 10.

DRINK AND ENJOY LIPTON'S TEA

JOHN BULL

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Edited by HORATIO BOTTOMLEY

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JOHN BULL

"Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war." *Milton.*

The Paper on which the Sun Never Sets.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant: Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

"For forms of government let fools contest; Whate'er is best administered is best."—*Pope.*

Vol. XXIX. No. 768. Week ending Saturday, February 19th, 1921. Twopence.

THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[*The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.*]

The General Election.

You have doubtless observed how, through all his raillery at the Press for predicting an early General Election, the Prime Minister was very careful not to disclaim the intention of appealing to the country long before the present Parliament has run its normal course. The Lord Chancellor, however, is candid. He tells us we may take it for granted that there will be no General Election "this year." That means dissolution in the early months of 1922—in other words, the present intention of the Government is that the next session shall be the last.

The Cecil Group.

We do not attach any serious importance to the report that Lord Robert proposes to form and lead a new Unionist group. Nothing with any Party name in its title has any chance in these days—and, after all, Lord Robert lives in a world of dreams.

That Asterisk.

At a meeting of Dover Conservatives the other night, Major Astor announced his intention of again contesting the seat at the next election. We shall certainly have to repeat our famous poster: "An * It."

Ex-Servicemen's Fusion.

We are anxiously watching the negotiations for fusion of the Federation and Comrades and other ex-Service bodies. If only they would unite—under some such title as "the British Legion"—and, eschewing Party politics, run candidates of their own at the next General Election, there is no question that the fighting men would soon secure their just demands. But co-operation with the Independents would be a guarantee of success.

Woolwich.

We have decided to leave this election alone. It is essentially a Labour seat, and our only regret is that a more genuine Labour candidate is not contesting it. An ex-schoolmaster—a non-Union one at that—and a strong Pacifist, is scarcely the man to represent the war-workers of Woolwich.

Will Crooks.

We shall all miss him very much in the House. A large-hearted, lovable fellow, he never made an enemy. With our seats divided by only the small gangway separating the front Opposition bench—at the end of which he always sat—from our own, we had little daily chats, and we well remember almost the last thing he said to us, in his hushed and weakened voice—"You are doing good work in the country." May the end of his days be peace.

History Repeating Itself.

During the French Revolution the Council of Nine voted a sum of a million pounds for the purpose of stirring up discontent and rebellion in Ireland. As the French say, "*Autres temps, autres meures.*"

A *Non-sequitur*.

According to Colonel Spender Clay, M.P., "there was no doubt that the Dover election was lost owing to the unpopularity of the Government." So far, so bad. But he then proceeds to attribute the defeat to "a campaign of misrepresentation." He cannot have it both ways!

The Trade in Old Horses.

The South Yorkshire Union of Licensed Horse-slaughterers tell us that any attack in reference to the treatment of these poor old creatures in connection with their export to the Continent should be directed against the Belgians and other persons across the water. But isn't this a matter somewhat beyond the sphere of horse-slaughterers?

BIGGEST FOOTBALL PRIZE!

£1,500

MUST BE WON.

For Free Coupon see page iii. of Cover.

Sir Auckland Geddes.

We shall be glad to hear that this political pedant has gone back to America—where he is capitally fitted to run in double harness with Mr. Wilson. He has not improved things by his belated explanation of that Press Conference. Why was the word "war" mentioned at all?

Our Debt to America.

We hope, by the way, that Sir Auckland is not meddling with this. Apart from the fact that the money was borrowed mainly for the purpose of being re-loaned to our Allies—and, by the way, to the Allies of America as well—let it ever be remembered that Britain always honours her obligations.

"Charity Begins at"—Vienna!

So over half a million of money has been raised in this country for the purpose of feeding the children of Vienna, and the Committee—of which we observe that Mr. Asquith, Mr. Arthur Henderson, Lord Robert Cecil and Viscount Curzon are members—are now making a "final appeal for £50,000 to continue the supply of relief until the end of May." It is delightful to know that we have no starving children at home.

Just So!

Thus Mr. Bonar Law at Edinburgh: "In the early days of the war, everything was attempted to be done on old lines, but it was only when we got the organised skill of the business community to help us that we rose adequately to the tasks we had in front of us." Oh, for a Business Government!

Chelsea Pensioners.

Mr. Churchill recently stated that it was "under consideration" to give every ex-soldier a military funeral when he dies. And yet the Chelsea pensioners have no posthumous honours bestowed upon them, being treated as civilians. Surely the old fellows are deserving of a fitting tribute to their services!

A Treasury Note Item.

Our attention is directed to the fact that if we follow the line of the spear in the hand of St. George on the £1 Treasury notes, it will be found that, after penetrating the body of the dragon, it has apparently become considerably bent. Provided, however, that everything else is "straight" about these notes, we shall not refuse them.

"What's in a Name?"

A Dublin reader sends us the following anagram: "Horatio Bottomley—A lottery; oh, boom it!" And an Eastchurch correspondent points out that the four official members of the Independent Party each has an "o" as the second letter in his surname—thus: Bottomley, Townshend, Polson, Lowther. Looks hopeful for Bonar!

Our Sunday Sermons.

Apropos of one of our recent Sunday articles, the Rev. Dr. Eyre, of Framfield Vicarage, Uckfield, writes: "If your valuable utterance had been read as a prelude to every sermon preached in church or chapel or cathedral, there would yet be some chance of the religious teachers regaining the nation's ear and attention." But, as a matter of fact, the article *was* so read in many places of worship.

India.

We have already hinted at the racial handicap under which Lord Reading will labour in India, and we are seriously concerned at the fact that, so far, no sign of the removal of Mr. Montagu from the Secretaryship of State has been forthcoming. To place the whole administration of India in the hands of members of the Jewish faith would be a political blunder of the first magnitude—and will be playing into the hands of Mr. Gandhi.

Dockers.

A Milford Haven informant says that in H.M. Dockyards "men receiving upwards of £3 a week pension are being admitted to make up the seven hours by which the regular workers have been reduced, though there are hundreds at the Labour Exchanges in very poor circumstances unable to get a job at all." Which reminds us of what Charles Dickens says in *Little Dorrit* about the Circumlocution Office: "Whatever was required to be done, the Circumlocution Office was beforehand with all the Public Departments in perceiving how not to do it."

Salvation Scrap.

From another of H.M. Dockyards—this at Rosyth—we gather there is, or would be, a certain amount of salvation for unemployed in "the scrap material now lying about and fast going to wreck and ruin." So much is accumulated day by day, it seems, that "there will hardly be room to walk in a short time." What is suggested is that unemployed men should be given work in returning it to stores, allowed to sell it to outside firms on commission, or utilise it to Government profit in some other way. The suggestion seems a good one.

Those Empty Houses.

We must get a move on with a brief Act to deal with landlords who refuse to let their houses or sell them at a reasonable figure. Blackpool provides a typical example. During a possession case the other day, Judge Sturges, K.C., said, "There are 400 houses kept vacant because the prices asked for them are absolutely prohibitive. It is a pity that there is not some law to compel the owners to sell at a reasonable price, to be determined by an arbitrator. It is a scandal that the owners should pay no rates and deprive people of the right of living in them." We agree, and Blackpool doesn't stand alone.

The "Marriage Tax."

We are respectfully requested to "do our best to remove the iniquitous marriage tax," and while preparing his next Budget the thoughtful attention of Mr. Chamberlain is hereby called to the same. "My husband and I," forcefully explains a lady domiciled at Bourton-on-the-Water, "would be much better off if we lived together without being married." On the other hand, it must be said there are widowers who complain that they would be better off if they were married, and bachelors who allege they are taxed because they are single so that they can hardly live. We shall have to become Chancellor of the Exchequer to straighten things out a bit.

"Blood From a Stone."

It must be admitted that the average Income-Tax Surveyor is a tryer, but we think the limit was recently reached by the Surveyor of Taxes at Reading. Two years ago a gentleman residing at Streatley relinquished his position in a Government Department, owing to overstrain. The job was worth £200 a year. Since that time he has been virtually an invalid, earning nothing. Nevertheless he is suddenly confronted with a demand for £42 6s. 4d., being the First Instalment of Income Tax under Schedule D., on £279 4s., at the rate of 6s. in the £! Such a demand would be a shock to a man in sound health, but to an invalid with a strained heart it might prove serious.

"Stinking Fish."

Round about Potter's Bar recently the air was noisome with the stench of tons of stale sprats, spread on the land as manure. Hungry folk in the neighbourhood want to know why the toothsome little fish couldn't have been sold at a reasonable price while they were fit for food, thus giving some poor fellows the opportunity of turning an honest penny by hawking them, and hundreds of others the chance of a cheap and satisfactory meal.

Fearful Football.

When lads are brutal they are very, very brutal, for they are brutal with levity. Take the case of three young fiends, Harold and William Ferguson, aged 14, and a 10-year-old named Nicholson, who have been before the Thornaby Magistrates. Two of them caught a cat and played football with it. Then, "because it was in pain," the other killed it with a spade and buried it, with "nearly every bone in its body broken." For this entertainment all they had to pay was 10s. 6d. each, but "their parents were ordered to give them a good thrashing." If said parents gave them one suitable to the occasion, the lads must feel sore about it.

Is Harry Lauder Funny?

There can be no two opinions about it—and the "Mystery Artist" presents "the wee modest mirth-provokin' Scot" at his funniest on the cover of this week's "Passing Show." 2d. everywhere.

Jurywomen.

"Should women sit on juries?" a Notting Hill lady demands. "Perhaps. Perhaps not. But as long as they have got to, whether they like it or not, Judges and Magistrates should sit on Counsel who persist in gassing about it." With these feeling sentiments we are in hearty accord.

Magisterial.

A one-armed discharged soldier of Nottingham, Thomas Tomlinson, has a pension of 36s. a week, and an unemployment dole of £1. While in this condition of abounding prosperity, he was foolish enough to get drunk. The day following he was before the Magistrates, who fined him £1—the Chairman remarking, "It is a very convenient thing to get drunk at the public expense." No doubt it is; but as it isn't a convenient thing to lose one's arm for other people's benefit, we suggest that this Nottingham J.P. should be a little more discreet when he wags his magisterial tongue.

Huninteresting.

Being a Free Trade-at-any-price organ, the *Manchester Guardian* has no more compunction in taking revenue from Hun advertisers than have many British tradesmen in making profit out of Hun goods. A firm of Nottingham lace manufacturers draws our attention to an advertisement in a recent issue of that paper depicting "a modern spinning mill" as "proved most efficient" when equipped with machinery manufactured by a Berlin firm, through their agents with offices in Manchester. "Is not this another instance," demands our correspondents, "of the German mind mistaking us for abject idiots?" We'll ask the Lunacy Commissioners

Old Age Preferred.

We are sorry to see that, in accordance with certain by-laws, children under 14 are to be refused admission to the great British Industrial Fair, at the White City, from February 21st to March 4th. It is against the interests of the coming generation that boys of thirteen and fourteen, on the point of starting to earn their own living, should be excluded from an exhibition which would undoubtedly give them an insight into the industrial life that awaits them. It is obviously the duty of the authorities to alter such an absurd regulation.

The Soldier in the Saloon.

We are aware that a publican is within his legal rights in refusing to serve any customer, and that he cannot be compelled to state his reason for so doing. But we are sorry to note that quite a number of well-known saloon bars in London are reviving their pre-war rule with respect to supplying soldiers. It is painfully humiliating for a First-Class Warrant Officer, a Regimental Sergeant-Major, to have his request for refreshment refused publicly. Fit to fight for his country, fit to be granted His Majesty's warrant, but not *quite* good enough to be served in the saloon. Bah!

Bricklayers Wanted.

One would imagine that bringing Guernsey bricklayers into Essex is much like taking coal to Newcastle. At times, however, imagination plays strange tricks with reason—wherefore we find in the *Guernsey Star* this amazing advertisement: "Bricklayers for Essex, 2s. 4d. an hour. Fares paid. Apply F. Crabbe." Seeing that the wages of the Guernsey bricklayer, who has to work for his money, is about 1s. 4d. an hour, this may have an attractive appeal to him. But what's the explanation? Won't Essex bricklayers work for 2s. 4d. an hour, or do they want the whole profits of the job, with free dinner on Sundays?

Slow Starvation.

So far as cleanliness and comfort are concerned, the poor old folk in Bethnal Green Infirmary are said to be well off, but they are always hungry. Apparently that isn't the fault of the staff, but of the system which only allows to these helpless ones—for some of whom 15s. a week is paid by relatives—the following daily dietary: Breakfast, two slices of bread and "marge" and a cup of weak tea; dinner, three ounces of meat, two of potatoes, one of greens; and, as a last "meal," two slices of bread and a cup of cocoa. That spells slow starvation. Where *do* the huge amounts raised by the Poor Rate go to?

A Sorry Scheme.

The Hutton and Howick Estate, Preston Land Settlement Scheme, under the Lancashire Agricultural Committee, does not appear to be a model of its kind. We hear of two ex-Service men with their families—fourteen persons in all—living in an old ruined farmhouse containing five rooms—scant accommodation that necessitates a girl of 11 sleeping in the same bed with boys of similar age. Rain penetrates the roof and falls on them as they sleep; the house provides no privacy, the doors have neither locks, bolts, or bars to "fly asunder." Yet close by are unoccupied weatherproof huts, built for a Training Scheme at a cost of £2,000—abandoned, but barred to the disillusioned ex-Service men on the Estate.

...eeries at Chiswick.

In one place they have bricklayers who put heart into their job; Chiswick to wit. Ex-...ervice men employed to erect three modern ...wellings, two with garages, in Oxford Road, ...ave done the whole work in eleven weeks ...om the time of cutting the first sod. They ...e hereby recommended for another job, ...ith promotion.

...ry Bad Taste.

One of the latest productions of Messrs. ...randauers, pen manufacturers, is a nib ...earing the words, "C. Brandauers Deutsche ...rmee Feder, Birmingham." In addition to ...is inscription, a large German iron cross, with ...hite edges, is embossed on the nib. Such ...haracteristics as these should not permit of very large sale, but probably the firm under-...tand their own business best.

...ow Not to Do It.

The worst of Government Departments is ...hat they have so little commonsense. Now ...hat the labour market is overcrowded, the ...ost Office have given notice to many of the ...emporary postmen at the G.P.O. who were ...jected in 1914 as unfit for military ser-...ice. The idea seems to be to reinstate ex-...ervice men—a very laudable one, too—but ...hy do the Popinjays wait until unemploy-...ent is rife before sacking the men who have ...rved them well and faithfully for six years?

...oil-Sports Rampant.

The kill-joys of the London County Council ...ave again vetoed the proposal to allow ...unday games in the parks. Not even the ...odest suggestion of making an experiment ...ppealed to their holy ears—the idea being, ...o doubt, that people should be forced into ...e churches through having nothing else to ...o. As a matter of fact the ban on sport ...tarts much earlier than Sunday, for in ...egent's Park, at least, the officials occupy ...eir Saturday afternoons in chasing off any-...ne who dares put down a football. The ...puritans" must be brought to their senses.

...hat Might Have Been.

An advertisement recently appeared in the *...rapers' Record* that an old-established London ...ouse required a traveller to sell German ...osiery. A North London reader discovered ...hat the firm in question was Messrs. Charles ...avy and Co., Ltd., 23, Ropemaker Street, ...C. When it comes to a question of hawking ...erman goods on British soil, it might be ...etter for the old-established house to re-...ember that, if our late enemy had its own ...ay in the air attacks on London, 23, Rope-...aker Street might now have been a *newly-*...tablished house.

...ellor's Judgment.

A case came up before Judge Mellor in the ...anchester County Court in which a milliner ...aimed possession of a house occupied by a ...nk manager, having bought the premises ...th money which, it was alleged, she had ...btained from a German. The plaintiff denied ...e Teutonic source of the cash, but admitted ...at she was going to marry the German referred ... Judge Mellor was severe on the defence ...r having introduced "extraneous matter" ...to the case, and ordered the house to be given ... to the German's prospective bride in 28 ...ys. Queer justice, when a British subject ...turned out of his house to make way for a ...un and his frau.

A Committee That Dares.

Norfolk has a Pensions Committee of which it should be proud. Recently, an ex-soldier, who was wounded three times during the war and had since suffered because of those wounds, committed suicide. Notwithstanding he left a widow and five children, the Army pension of 10s. he received was stopped by the Ministry. The Committee at once took the case up, and, in defiance of headquarters, have agreed to pay those left behind £2 16s. 2d. a week. Good luck to a Committee that can soar above red tape and act so splendidly!

Three and One.

"An Old Reader" has had the whole of Mother Shipton's prophesies engrossed and framed. This, she says, is one of them, and claims that it has been fulfilled: "Three times three shall lovely France Be led to dance a b—— dance, Before her people shall be free, Then tyrant rulers shall she see. Three times the people rule alone, Three times the people's hope is gone. Three rulers in succession see, Each spring from different dynasty. Then shall the awful fight be done, England and France shall be as one." There is hope in the last line, anyway; but, up to the last Conference, they have looked as much like being two as to the British Government, didn't seem to matter.

More "Fine Art."

Again we have complaint of the fine art of the Oxford Fine Art Galleries, Baker Street, W. Mr. Geo. J. Spalding, "Director," sends out "special certificates" entitling the recipient to an alleged guinea picture providing he fills in a counterfoil and posts it with 7d. postage to the Galleries. With the picture is sent a companion picture which is not ordered, and for which 4s. 6d. is debited; and if the recipient does not put himself to the postage cost of returning the "companion" he is pestered with accounts for that amount until either Mr. Spalding's patience or his own is exhausted. In the instance before us, at any rate, Mr. Spalding will not receive 4s. 6d. and if he wants his picture he will have to fetch it.

Singer's for Salary.

Singer Sewing Machine Co., Ltd., require a smart young lady as saleswoman and canvasser, able to teach purchasers; also honest and prepared to supply three references. To an applicant possessing these desirable qualities the firm are prepared to pay £1 a week, plus 1¾d. in the £ commission on sales. She must dress in black or blue, defray all travelling expenses while canvassing, contribute to the firm's savings bank, deposit with them 5s., not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith, give her whole time and attention to the job, agree to suspension or reduction of salary if from any cause she is absent from duty, and vanish like the baseless fabric of a vision when respectfully, or dis-spectfully, requested so to do. How in the world can the firm afford the money? They must be philanthropists.

Only Two Weeks More.

There are only two weeks more before the closing date for the Great "J.B." Puzzle. March the fourth will see the final letter numbered and time-stamped; so get busy, and don't put off sending your solution until the last moment. There are still a few of the little red, yellow, and blue-covered boxes available.

Important Announcement to Motorists.

"SHELL" FROM KERB-SIDE PLANTS.

For the information and protection of the motoring public, we announce that "Shell" Motor Spirit, in addition to being retailed in the familiar two-gallon red cans, is supplied to dealers in bulk, for re-sale through kerb-side plants, *only upon the dealer giving an undertaking to the following effect:—*

That "Shell" will be stored and retailed separately, not mixed with motor spirit of any other brand or grade.

"Shell" is *the only motor spirit sold under these important conditions*, which are made in the interests of the motoring public equally with our own. We know that in "Shell" we possess infinitely the best motor spirit procurable, and we cannot risk its use for raising the quality of inferior brands or grades.

Whether you buy "Shell" from kerb-side plants or in cans, ask for "Shell" (not merely for "No. 1" spirit, which is meaningless) and take particular care that you get "Shell."

Why Worry?

"Never meet trouble half way," said Cheeriboy, "—and if it comes face it boldly and half the battle's won. Above all, keep yourself fit. I've had troubles—and I expect more, but thanks to a good digestion and a sound healthy body, I can beat them every time.

"So will you if you take my advice and Page Woodcock's Pills."

Page Woodcock's Pills are not a "cure all" but just a natural vegetable corrective for all **stomach, liver** and **kidney troubles.** Without purging, they stimulate the action of the bowels—cleanse the system from all impurities—reinvigorate the digestive organs and restore the important functions of the liver and kidneys to their normal activity. If you feel depressed or out of sorts get a box to-day and half your troubles will immediately disappear.

They make and keep you fit!
70 years' reputation.
Sold by all Chemists. 1/3 and 3/- per box.
Have Cured Millions. Why not you?

Page Woodcock's Pills

FARROW'S ASSETS.

THE MYSTERY DEEPENS—ASSETS NOW BEING VALUED!—NO LIST YET FORTHCOMING.

WE left the story of Mr. Bottomley's negotiations for the purchase of the assets of this Bank—for a sum sufficient to provide the creditors with at least 5s. in the £, instead of the 3s. at present declared by the Official Receiver to be the utmost they can expect—at the point at which his solicitors were pressing for a list of the assets and protesting against the decision of the Liquidator not to refrain from any private realisations until the matter came before the Court. A plea was also put forward for sales by public auction only, and particulars were asked as to the value of the policies upon the life of Mr. Farrow, and what was being done with regard to the freehold and leasehold properties of the Bank. At the time of going to press no reply had been received to these questions, but subsequently Messrs. Lawrance, Webster, Messer and Nichols, Solicitors for the Official Receiver, wrote under date February 7th as follows:—

> We are sure you will appreciate that the preparation of detailed particulars and a valuation of the assets must take a considerable time, and you will also agree that it would be useless to apply for the directions of the Court without being able to submit to the Court the fullest particulars of the terms of your client's offer. We cannot appreciate why you are unable to answer paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of our letter without having the particulars of the assets, especially as we understand from your client's letter of the 20th ultimo that the offer which he contemplated making was based upon special information which he had with regard to the assets. In particular we should be glad to be informed of the proposed guarantees, as these will be a material term of the offer, and it would save time if the Official Receiver has the opportunity of satisfying himself as to the sufficiency of the guarantees while the valuation of the assets is being proceeded with.

To this communication Messrs. Arthur Benjamin and Cohen, acting for Mr. Bottomley, replied:—

> The reason why we cannot answer paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of your letter of the 3rd February is because without particulars and valuation of the assets to be scheduled as included in the sale, our client could not possibly arrange for so large a sum as will be required without being able to place before his financial friends official particulars of the assets to be acquired. We gather from your letter of the 3rd February that the amount necessary to pay the depositors a dividend of 5s. in the £ will require more than £1,000,000. Surely you or the Official Receiver or the Special Manager must already have some list of the assets, a copy of which you could supply us with, when Mr. Bottomley could then deal with the matter, make arrangements as to the amount of the deposit to be paid on approval of the contract, and give you the names of the guarantors. In a matter of this magnitude, we are sure you will agree one cannot take a leap in the dark and ask Mr. Bottomley's financial friends to support him in his efforts to preserve the assets, and make a better offer to the depositors than they are likely to receive according to the official announcement made to them, unless his friends can see what are the assets. Mr. Bottomley does not pretend to have any special information in regard to *all* the assets—one or two of the assets he has information about, but naturally this is only in a general way, and he has no official particulars before him. Is there not already in your possession a list of all the leases and tenancies affecting the properties, particulars of the insurance on the life of Mr. Farrow, the annual premium and the present surrender value of the policy? These are just a few of the assets which occur to us at the moment, of which there must already exist full particulars.

They followed up this letter by a further communication, dated February 10th:—

> *Mr. Bottomley points out that one of the greatest difficulties in the way of answering questions 2, 3 and 4 of your previous letter is the fact that the Official Receiver can give no undertaking in regard to the realisation of some of the assets "in the meantime," having regard to the arrangements made with the Banks, and therefore, for aught Mr. Bottomley knows to the contrary, contracts may already have been entered into for the disposal of some of the assets. What he requires immediately is an official list rather than a valuation of the assets. He thinks, however, there must be already in existence some valuation, as the Official Receiver some time ago notified the depositors that the assets would not realise more than 3s. in the £. We assume that probably in the Mortgage to the Banks there must have been some schedule of assets.*
>
> *We are sure it would facilitate matters if a more or less official list of the assets could be at once supplied to us. The only purpose for which it is required is to enable Mr. Bottomley to see his friends and make the necessary arrangements as to finance and try to secure better terms for the depositors than according to the official announcement they are likely to obtain in the ordinary course of events, and we can give you Mr. Bottomley's assurance that in seeking to obtain this list of assets he has no other object in view beyond that which we have already stated.*

To this letter the solicitors for the Official Receiver replied:—

> We need hardly point out to you that the Official Receiver is still without any definite offer from Mr. Bottomley which he could lay before the Court. Mr. Bottomley's original letter of the 20th January was not an offer at all, but merely an inquiry whether a certain offer would be considered, though Mr. Bottomley has subsequently referred to it as an offer. The Official Receiver has answered this inquiry in the affirmative; but it now appears that Mr. Bottomley is receding from his original suggestion and requires a list of assets and a valuation to be disclosed to him and submitted to his financial friends before he will make a definite offer. The Official Receiver has in his possession particulars of most of the assets, and a valuation of some of them, but in the case of many of the assets a valuation is a matter of great difficulty, and must take a considerable time. The Official Receiver does not feel justified without the sanction of the Court in furnishing you with a detailed list or valuation of the assets in the absence of any definite offer to purchase, and we are accordingly instructed to bring the correspondence before the Court, and to make an immediate application for the directions of the Court as to whether such information shall be furnished to you on behalf of Mr. Bottomley and generally for directions in the matter. We propose to give you notice of the date fixed for hearing the application in order that (subject to the approval of the Court) Mr. Bottomley may have an opportunity of attending. We may add that it would in our view materially add to the prospect of the application proving effective if Mr. Bottomley will at least furnish the Court with particulars of the deposit and guarantee which would accompany any offer he proposes to make.

And this letter Messrs. Arthur Benjamin & Cohen answered as follows:—

> All we have to remark upon your observations discrediting the sincerity of Mr. Bottomley's offer is that in his first letter—of 20th January—he concludes by saying that "by way of evidence as to the *bona fides* of this offer, I shall be prepared upon your giving an undertaking to the above effect"—*i.e.*, that no private sales of premises or any other assets of the Bank should take place—"to lodge a substantial cash deposit with you." This undertaking you have, so far, failed to give, and in the circumstances, we are quite unable to appreciate some of the observations in your last letter. However, our client will be very pleased of an opportunity of attending before the Court. Meanwhile, we have only to repeat that we are not so much concerned with the valuation as with a list of the assets of the Bank.

Meanwhile, all over the country depositors and other creditors of the Bank are actively engaged organising a movement to prevent the sacrifice of the assets, and every day brings us shoals of correspondence on the subject. Here, for instance, is a letter from Mr. J. Herbert Jubb, of Messrs. Alexander Jubb & Taylor, 124, St. Vincent Street, Glasgow.:—

> I am acting as Legal Adviser to the Committee appointed at a meeting of depositors, etc., to the amount of £20,000. The Committee have had several meetings and naturally have been much interested in the articles which have appeared in JOHN BULL. I have been in communication with all the Members of Parliament—14 in number—for the City of Glasgow, and also with the Official Receiver and representatives of various Committees in the North and Centre of Scotland and Midland Counties of England. I was instructed to communicate with you regarding the assets of the Bank. My Committee are strongly of opinion that the Liquidator is rushing the realisation of the assets, with consequent loss to the unfortunate depositors and others. My Committee have instructed me to go to London within the next few days, along with representatives of the other Committees, in order that various Members of Parliament may be interviewed, and pressure brought to bear upon the Liquidator to conserve the assets and decrease the waste. My Committee ask me to suggest to you that you might use your powerful influence to prevent the Liquidator from realising the assets just now, and give the unfortunate depositors or their representatives a chance of making suggestions for future development. I shall be glad if you will make this representation to the Official Receiver. I have written him to-day on the subject.

Perhaps next week we may have something more to say. Meanwhile, the depositors and customers of the Bank may rest assured that we are keeping our eyes open.

THE BYNG MILLIONS.

EX-SOLDIERS' CLAIMS TO CANTEEN FUND PROFITS.

After four years' trading with the troops in France, the Expeditionary Force Canteens retired from business with accumulated profits in the neighbourhood of £10,000,000. This vast sum of money had been extracted from the slender pay of the fighting soldier, the canteen prices having been fixed on such a scale as to assure a lavish return upon the small capital engaged. This money clearly belonged to the men who, owing to the needlessly high prices fixed by the canteen management, had made its accumulation possible, and it was a recognition of this fact that induced the Government to earmark the profits for the benefit of ex-Servicemen.

THE MISSING PROFITS

The plan adopted was to call into existence a new organisation, with a Royal Charter, under the presidency of Lord Byng, and to announce that this body, to be known as the United Services' Fund, would have the complete disposal of the canteen profits. Hence the phrase, "The Byng Millions." Unfortunately, however, the War Office authorities appear never to have surrendered their control of the funds, and it is, we believe, a fact that up to the present the actual sum handled by Lord Byng and his associates has been very little more than £2,000,000. Even this small fraction of the total profits has been received in driblets, doled out in such a way as seriously to hamper the efforts of the Byng Committee. Where is the rest of the money? It is acknowledged that the sum of £2,000,000 has been invested by the War Office in the Government's Funding Loan, while another £2,000,000 has been loaned out as working capital to the Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes. Another £1,000,000, we are told, is being held in reserve against possible losses on the sale of surplus stores, and it may be assumed that this money has also been suitably invested. There was an understanding that in all such cases interest should be paid to the United Services Fund. To the best of our knowledge, however, not a penny has been paid. For more than a year the authorities have been disposing of the Surplus Canteen Stores, realising large sums of money in respect of which no return can be traced. It is even stated that the authorities have flatly refused to furnish particulars of this transaction to the Byng Fund Committee. The quest of the missing millions grows more hopeless than ever. Unless something is done soon, it may be found that they have vanished into thin air.

A CLAIM OF HONOUR.

The first thing, clearly, is to get from the Secretary of State for War a plain, businesslike statement as to the exact financial position, and this, of course, must include the publication of the Expeditionary Force Canteens' Balance Sheet for the whole period of its existence. Failing this information, the House of Commons should demand a public Inquiry into the whole affair, when it might be possible justly to apportion blame for what has become a serious scandal. The distress prevailing this winter among numbers of ex-Service men is appalling, and it is monstrous that these vast sums of money, which, in plain justice, belong to the sufferers themselves, should be held up through bureaucratic trifling or the neglect of those in authority to carry out a plain duty. The present position is unfair to Lord Byng, who, known universally as a friend of the ex-Service man, has been placed in a false situation from which, no doubt, he would be only too willing to escape, but for his desire to see through a task undertaken at the special request of the King. It would be well if the loyalty of this distinguished soldier were shared by the officials at the War Office who, from laxity and indifference, are preventing the realisation of His Majesty's hopes in regard to the liquidation of the Canteen profits.

BRAIN, BUNKUM AND BALDERDASH.

A "PERFECT PROCESS" OF GUINEA-LIFTING.

By advertisements, circulars, and booklets, Mr. George H. Cox, of "Farringford," 132, Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton, offers, at three guineas a time, the secret of "Nature's Perfect Process" for memory and brain training. The "course" is represented by two well-leaded, wide-margined, paper-backed booklets with paper covers, and the letterpress consists of about as much head-splitting jargon as Mr. Cox can get into the space, the frontispiece consisting of a "diagrammatic section of the human brain," surmounted with a black line which makes it look like a cauliflower. This at least is to the point. Nature's process, as Mr. Cox explains it, will do about as much memory training for cauliflowers as it will do for anybody else. "Human beings," explains the gifted author on page 15, "have, however, a natural storehouse, The Cortical, and to this must be sent the special things we have to remember. This shows Nature's wisdom, for if the brain were all cortical, the myriads of things around us would be retained, whether important or not." Happily the brain isn't all cortical. Some of it is Reflex, hence "the marvellous wisdom which, by closing eyes, sound, touch, etc., stops the Reflex entirely and still allows the Cortical to work from within." In playing music, "it is very important no action should take place until the cells have decided exactly what is to be done, as otherwise all previous impressions are temporarily lost and have to be found." Again, "if you cannot recall any subject do not worry the brain about it, but give it all the information, and then proceed with work in hand." That's about right too. If there is nothing in your head, nothing will come out of it. Stuff the brain cells with all you want to know and they will tell you all about it. We have no room, no time, and no patience to quote more of this sorry stuff. If people still think it is worth three-guineas they are at liberty to forward Mr. Cox the money.

PRINTER'S PIE.

(Half-a-crown is paid to the sender of each item published. Envelopes must be marked "Pie.")

"MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS":—"Placing the TRIGGER to his forehead he BLEW OUT HIS BRAINS."

"SUSSEX DAILY NEWS" (football report):—"The Burgess Hill defence was pressed pretty much, relieved occasionally by a dash or two to the NORTH POLE."

"CROYDON ADVERTISER":—"In 1919 two hundred and seventy thousand years of time were lost through illness to ADULT MALES, MOSTLY MEN."

"YORKSHIRE EVENING POST":—"Miss Richardson complained of boys throwing stones at her PEAR tree, and stealing the APPLES."

"DAILY EXPRESS":—"The man . . . said that he PAINTED in oils as well as in IN CHALK."

"ANSWERS":—"The thunder pealed and the LIGHTNING CRASHED."

"GLASGOW HERALD" (advertisement):—"BULLS, 250 VOLTS, 50 CANDLE POWER."

"SUNDAY EXPRESS":—"She stated that her HUSBAND was a WIDOWER."

"GLASGOW EVENING TIMES" (advertisement):—"750 DOGS in five months were received by———, Newlands, from seven HENS.

"GIRLS' FRIEND LIBRARY":—"Her SHAPELY HEAD FARTED, and her cheeks were flushed with excitement."

"NEWCASTLE DAILY JOURNAL" (advertisement):—"Competent, trustworthy SHEPHERD Wanted at May Term, practical, BLACKFACED."

NATURAL SELECTION

Of what is

Pure and Wholesome

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Chocolate Liquid Fruits

None "just as good"

If difficulty in obtaining, send three penny stamps for postage of free sample to

BARKER & DOBSON (1919), LTD.

LIVERPOOL

"I'm King of the Castle!"

HABITS make character. Character leads to success. The child who from earliest infancy has been trained to the pleasant twice-daily habit of cleaning his teeth is bright and sound morally, mentally and physically.

Give your little ones the best chance you can. Teach them the necessity of thoroughly cleaning their teeth (whether they be the first or second set) night and morning—particularly at night, for *teeth decay most during the night.* You will find it an easy matter to get them to make a habit of so doing if you give each child his or her own tin of

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Please send me a Lady's Package containing: Gibbs Dentifrice, Gibbs Dental Cream, Gibbs Cold Cream Soap, Gibbs Cold Cream Foam.

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Pin this Voucher, or half to a sheet of paper with your name and address clearly written and post with 7d. or 1/- D. & W. GIBBS, Ltd. (Dept. 113), Cold Cream Soap Works, London, E.1.

GRIM TRAGEDY OF BIRTH AND DEATH.

TRIPLE FATALITY IN THE ABSENCE OF MEDICAL ATTENTION.

THIS week we have to print a tragic chapter from "the short and simple annals of the poor." At a small village, Bradwell-on-Sea, Essex, there lived until recently a woman named Emily Martin, thirty-five years of age, the wife of a local farm labourer. With six young children to work and manage for, Mrs. Martin, who was in good average health, led an active and healthy life, and no alarm was felt when, last year, it became apparent that an addition to the family was to be expected. Supported by her husband's steady affection, and assisted by the kindliness of her neighbours, the good woman approached the ordeal with courage and confidence.

An Appalling Tragedy.

The astounding circumstances surrounding the death of Mrs. Martin and her twin babies may be quite shortly stated. At nine o'clock in the morning on the 17th of January last, this poor woman sent a note to a neighbour—Mrs. Hipsey by name, a woman with considerable experience of maternity nursing—asking her to be good enough to come along and stay with her as she felt sure her hour was near. At the same time a message was sent to the only available medical practitioner, Dr. Sidney E. Barratt, of The Square, Tillingham, Essex, notifying him that his services might shortly be required. Throughout the day Mrs. Martin and the nurse expected at least a preliminary call from the doctor, and it was in a mood of considerable alarm that in the early evening Mrs. Hipsey sent her friend to bed, and prepared to act as best she could herself in the absence of a qualified medical man. In the later hours of the evening events moved rapidly, and at 2.10 a.m., the doctor having not yet put in an appearance, the first child was born. By this time thoroughly alarmed, the nurse rushed downstairs and sent the husband off to Tillingham, three miles distant, to summon him to the bedside of the helpless mother; but the poor fellow apparently failed to gain a hearing at the doctor's residence.

A Weary Quest.

Returning, still more alarming news greeted the distracted husband. In his absence, a second child had been born, added to which there was profuse hæmorrhage and other complications which, in the opinion of the nurse, were of a most dangerous kind. Once more Mr. Martin trudged back to Tillingham, returning this time with the information that he had succeeded in waking the doctor and had informed him of the exact condition of affairs. In reply to these urgent representations, Dr. Barratt seems to have offered the husband some reassurance, promising to follow him to the cottage as soon as he possibly could. But still he did not come, and it was necessary for Martin to make another journey to Tillingham this time on a neighbour's bicycle—as Dr. Barratt had not apparently realised the urgency of the case. It was at 7.45 a.m. on the morning of the 18th of January that he reached Martin's house in his motor. Before his arrival, Mrs. Martin had died in circumstances of indescribable horror. As often happens in childbirth, the case had assumed a complexity baffling the efforts of the woman attendant, and Dr. Barratt was in time to save the new-born infants from immediately sharing the fate of their dead mother. Since then, however, both the children have died.

We are anxious to be quite fair to Dr. Barratt, and, as is our practice in these matters, we propose to give due weight to his side of the case. To a great extent, apparently, he is the victim of the system that entrusts all Panel patients in a vast rural area to the care of a single medical practitioner. For instance, it appears that, except for Dr. Barratt, the nearest doctors available for patients at Bradwell-on-Sea are one at Burnham-on-Crouch—ten miles distant, and another at Southminster—seven miles away. It is a plain fact that Dr. Barratt has a far larger area to work than he can possibly manage. Still, the appalling fact remains that, in spite of notice given on the morning of the day preceding her death, this poor woman was left to struggle through the ordeal of childbirth without skilled attention.

Unavailing Messages.

As regards the degree of personal blame to be attached to Dr. Barratt, it has to be remembered that during the night and early morning the husband paid no fewer than three separate visits to the doctor's house, and although the first of these messages did not reach him, it is not denied that he was informed in good time of the birth of the children, and of the fact that untoward developments were feared. The task of the Panel practitioner in rural areas is no light one, but the country will not tolerate a system that allows poor patients to pay with their lives for the deficiencies of the National Health Insurance scheme. Tragic as was the death of Mrs. Martin, and deplorable the loss of the two babies, we do not press the case against Dr. Barratt beyond asking him for an explanation of his failure to attend immediately on receipt of the information that a patient of his had given birth to twins in circumstances of special difficulty. Beyond this, we demand that the whole situation of Panel patients in this area should be a subject of searching investigation by the Ministry of Health. If Dr. Barratt, or any other rural practitioner, has a larger zone of practice than he can effectively supervise, immediate steps must be taken to rectify the position. Human life is too precious to be imperilled in this way.

SAPPING HER SAVINGS.

HOW THE POOR LAW OPERATES.

Boards of Guardians are not always responsible for the meannesses and injustices that are sometimes perpetrated in their name. In many instances they have no alternative but to carry out the Law—and bear the onus of its defects. This appears to be the case with respect to William Harris and his wife. Harris served with the 2nd Batt. Royal Warwicks for 21 years, leaving with an excellent character, the Good Conduct Medal, and a pension of 1s. 1d. a day. He was subsequently employed as a barrack labourer, and served in that capacity for 22 years, that is to say, until January, 1920, when he was given notice to leave on account of his age—63 years. Shortly afterwards he fell sick, became strange in his head, attempted his own life, and was lodged in the County Mental Hospital, Burntwood, where he remains without hope of recovery. During the war, to supplement her husband's meagre pay of £1 a week, Mrs. Harris undertook Government Store and soldiers' washing, and being thrifty, and with a special regard to their old age, succeeded in saving as much as £293, which she deposited in the Post Office Savings' Bank. On this sum the Board of Guardians are drawing at the rate of 28s. a week for the maintenance of Harris in the Asylum. Already between £50 and £60 of that little provision for old age has been absorbed, and as her husband's case is hopeless, Mrs. Harris is faced with the complete exhaustion of her savings and the prospect of herself coming to the parish for relief. It seems hard that the money earned by her own industry could not be secured to her.

BREAD IN THE BONE.

MORE ABOUT THE BOCHE IN THE BAKERY.

In a little article based on the authority of a British operative baker, we recently presented the view that what is bread in the bone comes out in the oven. Now we have a reader on the track of that baker with an epistolary tomahawk. "I fought against the Boche in France, and would prefer to employ British labour to the exclusion of all other," he writes; "but if the British worker won't work, what then? I like hot bread for my breakfast, and I can see no reason why I should not have it. If, then, the British baker won't bake it for me I am going to employ whomsoever will do so, whether he be German, Swiss, Negro, or Chinese. I have not the slightest doubt your British baker from Barnet sees no harm in purchasing goods made abroad to the detriment of his fellow working-men in other trades. He is out to buy his requirements in the cheapest markets, so why should not I, if I were a master baker, buy my labour in the cheapest market, particularly if my German or Chinese will work for his pay and not lounge about and spit? Briefly, if the British worker wants employment he will have to work at the pre-war rate of output and pre-war hours, and perhaps longer; if he won't he will lose his job, as he is doing by the thousand to-day." In the vernacular of the street, how's that for mustard? It is hot stuff, it must be admitted; but if the principle were carried to its logical conclusion, the British working man would be submerged under a wave of Asiatic labour which would transform the industrial conditions of this country beyond recognition.

DISHING THE DOVER PATROL.

SHABBY TREATMENT OF GALLANT SAILORS.

High on the records of bravery stands the name of "The Dover Patrol," a fearless company of lads who kept the Silver Streak inviolate; and here is the further history of two of them. Lightermen by calling, the closing of the North Sea brought about the cessation of herring-fishing and their occupation. Their lighters were laid up, and they voluntarily joined the Trawler Section of the Royal Naval Reserve. In May, 1919, a few months after demobilisation, they returned to Lerwick to find that their lighters, uncared for during the owners' arduous service elsewhere, had broken loose and were destroyed. They thereupon applied for assistance to the Civil Liabilities Department, to enable them to recommence their former calling. A month later they received a formal reply, refusing a grant, but to a second application on 24th September, 1919, no reply at all was received. In June, 1920, however, the investigating officer, when in Lerwick, went into the case, and decided that the claim was in order, himself forwarding an application to the Commissioners of Civil Liabilities Department, Inverness. On August 19th, 1920, again came the astounding reply that no grant could be made as the case was out of date! What date *should* the sailors have applied? Before the war, before joining up, or before their boats had been lost? It is quite impossible to fathom the official mind. One of these lads is now a caretaker, at a few shillings a week, and the other is seeking work of any sort. But, thank God for the Dover Patrol—although nowadays it seems a case of out of sight, out of mind.

A VERY DEEP DRANE.

AN OLD HAND AT A CURIOUS GAME.

This is not the first time that Mr. H. J. Drane, publisher, of Danegeld House, Farringdon Street, London, E.C., has earned our displeasure, and, subject to the exigencies of our space, we are optimistic enough to think that it will not be the last. The latest instance of his slimness is provided by a Cornwall reader who, having written a novel, submitted it unsuccessfully to several publishing firms, and finally, with a persistence that has so far proved extremely unfortunate, sent it to Drane, whose alacrity in dealing with the matter was in itself suspicious. Our friend sent Drane four guineas in compliance with his request. After he had received the money, Drane's speed in the transaction slackened considerably, and nearly two months was allowed to elapse before he sent the expectant author the inevitable letter of disillusionment—conveying to him, by lengthy phrases and unpunctuated sentences, the glad tidings that it would cost £95 10s. to publish a first edition of 3,000 copies of the novel, and that the work could be carried out only if the author agreed to contribute no less than £47 15s. towards this sum! As our reader was unable to comply with this alarming request, the manuscript was returned, but the four guineas was retained. It is the same old tale, with the same old moral; but authors with a liking for "happy endings" should steer clear of Drane, who, in practising a decidedly shady game, leaves himself open to criticism of the most invidious nature.

THE PRAM AND THE BABY.

DEAD CHILD & OBDURATE TRADING FIRM.

The attitude of Messrs. Harris & Co., Ltd., baby carriage manufacturers, of Rye Lane, Peckham, towards one of their customers seems to us more than ordinarily unfeeling. On a recent Saturday, Mr. C. H. Johncock, of 52, Hereward Road, Upper Tooting, purchased from the Balham branch of Messrs. Harris a baby carriage and accessories for £12 18s. 3d. cash down. On the Sunday evening following, barely 24 hours afterwards, he had the misfortune to lose his three-weeks-old baby. The carriage at once became useless; the sight of it in the house with the child upstairs, hardly cold in death, accentuated a poignant sorrow, and the parents wished the vehicle out of the place. Mr. Johncock, therefore, wrote to Messrs. Harris asking if they would take back the carriage and refund the money; but he had done a deal with the wrong firm. "Dear Sir," they responded, "In reply to your favour addressed to our Old Kent Road branch, it is with regret we have to inform you that we cannot see our way to take back the carriage purchased last Saturday. It was found necessary some time ago to decline all requests of this description, and no exception is made to this rule. No doubt you will find a purchaser if you advertise the carriage in the local paper. Yours faithfully, pro W. J. Harris & Co., Ltd., S. B. Robins." The carriage had not been used at all, "the wheels not having been to the ground." It is not for us to say what other business firms, appealed to in similar case, would have done in the matter; few, perhaps, would have refused to accept the return of the carriage on condition that a small reduction was made in refunding the money paid for it. Messrs. Harris have assuredly not done the creditable thing. Moreover, from the point of view of business, they have done the wrong thing. We are aware that a limited liability company is not supposed to possess a soul, but we have noticed that those firms which have some consideration for the common feelings of humanity endure the longest and enjoy the soundest success.

TAXING THE UNTAXABLE.

EXEMPTION CLAIM STORY FROM RIPON.

Mr. M. E. McLoughlin, of Littlethorpe, Ripon, tells us a story of his experience with the Income Tax officials. A man of untaxable means, he invested a small amount, the dividend upon which yields him £18 a year. This sum the bank pays to him in half-yearly instalments after deducting 6s. in the £ "at the source." On December last he applied by post to the local Inspector of Taxes for the usual exemption forms, sending at the same time the bank vouchers. Receiving no reply, Mr. McLoughlin called personally at the office. To his astonishment he was then told there was no trace of his letter. He therefore filled up some more forms and obtained from the bank duplicate vouchers. The day afterwards, he received from the Inspector's office the original forms and vouchers which it was denied had been received, the official at the same time demanding the vouchers for the preceding half-year. He was told that these papers had been sent to London and there retained. The enterprising official took no notice of this intimation, but reiterated his demand for the vouchers, saying the claim would not be paid until they were produced. Thereupon Mr. McLoughlin wrote to the Central Office, London, stating that he wanted re-payment on December vouchers only, and these the Inspector had in his possession. The official mind of London then also closed up like an oyster. On 20th January last, however, the sum claimed was paid to Mr. McLoughlin from London, without reference to the local official at all. "I beg to inform you," wrote the Chief Inspector of Taxes, "that a certain amount of unavoidable delay arose through the transfer of the claims from this office to the district office"; whereas the precise cause was official cussedness. However, Mr. McLoughlin has got his money, but we shall be interested to know whether that Ripon Inspector will put him through a similar circus performance again. And it is here that we might suggest that some slight civility and consideration on the part of the Income Tax officials is desirable. It is only a little brief authority that they are dressed in. It is a pity they do not wear it a trifle more graciously.

BRITISH CLOCKS NOT WANTED.

AUTHORITIES ENCOURAGE FOREIGN PRODUCTIONS.

The Victory Alarm Clock Company have expended, during many months, much cash and effort in training some hundreds of disabled warriors to make and assemble a timepiece which, in all respects, should compare favourably with a German clock with which this country has been flooded. This German article shows not the slightest sign of its origin. When complaints are made, the Board of Trade coolly replies that, under the Merchandise Marks Act, 1887, so long as it bears no *false mark* everything is quite O.K. If the German maker marks his clock "Made in Timbuctoo," they will prosecute him; if he does not mark it at all, then there is nothing doing! Here we have the problem. Everybody putting in good work and cash to fill the tank, so to speak, and the Board of Trade, with its fossil Act of 1887, calmly allowing the German taps to run on as merrily as ever. Disgusted by this discovery, the Victory Company made application to the Customs, when it transpired that the German clocks, having no qualifying mark of origin, should have been detained on importation, adding that any more markless clocks *will* be detained! Now the Victory Alarm Clock Company had better turn out a clock which will keep awake the Board of Trade, and the Customs Authorities, long enough to do the work for which they are paid.

A CONSTABLE'S RUIN.

BROKEN BY PORT OF LONDON AUTHORITY.

The cruel plight of ex-Constable Gale, dismissed by the Chief Police Officer under the Port of London Authority in consequence of an attack of cramp in the stomach, will be in the recollection of our readers. An almost parallel instance of despotic treatment has occurred in the case of ex-Sergeant Charles D. King, who was summarily discharged after 24 years' service for a single and, in our opinion, a venial lapse. On duty as acting Inspector in the Victoria Dock one Saturday afternoon, he had occasion to board a vessel conveying German passengers bound for Germany. Suffering from a cold on the chest, he accepted some whisky offered him by one of the ship's company. He admits that he imbibed rather more freely than was wise, and as a result became a little unsteady on his legs—needing, in fact, to be assisted to the Police Office. He was reported, and the next morning appeared before Mr. Stuart Baker, the Chief Police Officer, by whom he was informed that his dismissal would be recommended. This was immediately given effect to, and King was cast out of the service without a character, deprived of the pension towards which he had contributed for years, and without even a week's pay in lieu of notice. His record had been a perfectly clean one. Had he been reduced and fined, he would have accepted his punishment without complaint. Instead, after 24 years' faithful service, he is thrown into the crowded ranks of the unemployed, and has already been reduced to the necessity of seeking parish relief. We call it a bitter shame.

TWO YEARS TO RUN.

THE BOY DRYDEN AND THE KIBBLE REFORMATORY.

We related in our issue of 27th November last how Harry Dryden, convicted on some trumped-up charge of cigarette stealing, was committed to the Kibble Reformatory for Boys, Paisley, there to remain until he attained the age of nineteen years. It will be remembered that he was sent by the school authorities to work at a laundry, where he fell into a tank of boiling starch, and received such shocking injuries, from his waist downwards, that for a while his life was despaired of. So cruel an ordeal might well have been accepted by the Reformatory authorities as a complete expiation of whatever trivial wrong the lad had done, but after eleven weeks in hospital he was sent back to the Reformatory, still in a delicate state of convalescence, to resume the deadly routine of the institution. His mother applied for permission to take him home and nurse him for a while, but this reasonable demand was curtly denied. On the 5th of December, Mr. Dryden wrote to the Scottish Education Department asking for his son's release. Nearly two months later, he was favoured with a reply refusing his request; but we are not inclined to let this scandalous matter rest here. The boy Dryden is still obviously suffering from the effects of his injuries, and should be released without further quibble or delay. Letters written by his father to the Secretary for Scotland, Mr. Munro, are merely handed on to the Education Department, by whom, presumably, they are referred to the Governor of the Reformatory, thus completing a kind of vicious circle. There is a possibility that the lad is, to some extent, being victimised on account of the publicity we have given his case in the columns of this journal. If we obtain confirmation of this suspicion, a few pointed questions will be asked in Parliament, for that scarred and unhappy boy must not be allowed to remain for another two years in the morally vitiated atmosphere of a Reformatory

CANDID COMMUNICATIONS.

This space is devoted to Open Letters to Celebrities, Notorieties, and, occasionally, Nonentities.

To Mr. Justice McCardie.

MY LORD,—When anyone is down, the last person in the world to do the kicking should be a man in your position. Yet this is practically what you did in sentencing John White to twelve months in the second division for thefts from his employers. Apart from this offence the man had a good character; but imagining him to be eternally lost, you said to him, "Your wife henceforward is the wife of a felon, your children now have a felon for their father, your friends, acquaintances and relatives will shun the society of a felon"—in short, he was only fit for deportation to some savage tribe. I find it hard to believe that you really spoke such words. Rubbing it in like this was worse even than the sentence. JOHN BULL.

To Councillor Frost, J.P., Chairman, Urban Council, Spalding.

SIR,—Some land, rented by your Council, recently came on the market, and forty hard-working fellows looked like losing their precious bits of allotments or paying through the nose for them. You stepped in, forced the price to a low figure, bought the land up, and offered it at cost price to the anxious forty, who gratefully re-purchased it, and are now small, but proud landlords. After my long and sickening experience of grab and greed in similar circumstances, your action comes as a grateful and comforting exception. Spalding should be proud to own you as a citizen, the Council as its Chairman, and the lucky forty as a pal. It is sad to be forced by the thousands of letters which reach me to think that there are few like you.

JOHN BULL.

To the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, Chairman, Royal Wheat Commission.

MY LORD,—What is the great idea behind this enormous importation and forcible distribution of rotten Chinese flour, full of weevils and maggots? Doctors have certified that serious illness may be caused by the use of this Heathen Chinee abomination, of which I understand some 30,000 bags were condemned in one lot. Millers and bakers tell us that the only dear flour is that sold by you; and as the only flour you will sell is this Chinese fertiliser, the expression "putrid profiteer" tells its own tale in your case. Either send this awful stuff back to be buried where it died, or issue a supply of pain-killer with each sack.

JOHN BULL.

To Mr. Will Crooks, ex-M.P. for East Woolwich.

DEAR WILL,—Now you have applied for the Chiltern Hundreds, allow me to say that your passing from Parliament is an event that cannot go by unnoticed. Whatever difference there was in our political views, your presence in the House was always a pleasure to me, and I shall miss the seasoning of humour that you generally imparted to dry debates. My sincere hope is that you will speedily recover from your present illness, and enjoy the retirement which you have fully earned. If your successor plays the game only half as well as you have done, the people of East Woolwich will still be able to consider themselves fortunate.

JOHN BULL.

To Provost Macrae, Town Council, Nairn.

SIR,—Nairn is a long way from France, even as the crow flies, and as you probably grudge bawbees for newspapers you will be largely unaware that, but for the efforts of our lads who fought, you would now be *ex*-provost, and doing some kind of work for a German task-master. Recently your Council voted on the respective claims of two candidates for the position of Harbour-master. One had never served a day, and already had a good position, but the other had stuck it for five years in France, and had a wife and family to support. The claims of the latter were eloquently pleaded by a number of Councillors—but, the votes for each being equal, it lay with you, as Chairman, to make the selection by your casting vote. You gave this vote, without rhyme or reason, to the civilian. To your lasting shame be it. JOHN BULL.

To the Board of Guardians, Weymouth.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—Not so very long ago, among the boarders at Weymouth Workhouse was a man whose destitution was so complete that it was only through the kindly charity of his fellow inmates that he was enabled to enjoy the pleasure of a pipe of 'bacca. Being an Englishman, he naturally promised that when circumstances permitted he would make his indigent friends some little return for the unselfish kindness they had extended to him. Falling on more prosperous times, he revisited the Workhouse, but was denied admission—for the reason, forsooth, that he himself had been an inmate! Even his request that he might be allowed to leave a shilling for each of his old friends was refused. Such cold-blooded officialism makes me sick.

JOHN BULL.

To Councillor Mrs. L. Yates, of the L.C.C.

MADAM,—So you object to spending money on memorials to "men who made only one particular kind of sacrifice, compared with other sacrifices in life generally." What do you mean? These men sacrificed their lives to protect you and your home. Is not that the supreme sacrifice? What other sacrifice compares with it? Many of us have been hit in many ways by the war, but we still retain our lives. You could use yours better than in opposing tokens of respect to the men who died for you. JOHN BULL.

To Alderman Dart, J.P., Liverpool Police Court.

SIR,—I congratulate you on your short way with a bachelor who pleaded that he couldn't pay Income Tax because he had been assisting his sister and her seven children. You showed him the error of his ways. "The State has a legal claim, and comes first," you said, and refused to allow any pernicious sentimentality or sympathy to enter into the argument. But why did you add that you had nothing to say against the man assisting the children? You ought to have condemned his action strongly, for what does it matter if the children starve so long as the State gets its Income Tax? I must watch your career as a debt collector.

JOHN BULL

To Lord Inchcape, Chairman, P. & O. Company.

MY LORD,—During the war ship stewards worked like niggers, living, eating and sleeping in their glory-holes like pigs. This when the shipowners were fattening themselves to the eyes with the ransom they took from the community; and when you now talk about stewards bossing your ships as well as stealing your plate, and even your pianos, I have to refer you to the fact that the P. &. O. employs Asiatic labour at half the price the Company pay to white men, and that even the most muscular steward aboard ship can't get away with a piano in his waistcoat pocket or secrete it in his hair. As for wages, my Lord, you give the shipowner profiteers away. "It did not matter so much to the owner," you declare, "what the wage was during the war, as the ships were on charter to the Government and the wages were a charge against the State." When shipowners were making millions and the nation paid the wages—but oh, for the halcyon days of war! What a pity, my Lord, that the P. & O. cannot start another on its own. JOHN BULL.

In the Barber's Chair - - - - - Mr. John Bromley.

Mornin', mister . . . *Trim your merstarsh?* Cert'n'y. Anythink else? . . . . Oh, very well. I don't orfen git a little job like thet. A customer usually wants a shave, a shampoo, or a n'air cut the same time . . . Oh, no, I ain't grumblin'—I'm on'y sayin'. I'd curl yer eyebrows, fur thet matter, if thet was all you wanted . . . *Plenty of wax?* Right-o. Queer fashion, waxin' the ends, ain't it? Some people reckon it makes a bloke look fierce, but you orfen find thet a feller with a fierce merstarsh is as mild as a glarss o' Guv'ment ale. Look at Jack Bromley, the Secretary o' the Locomotive Engineers' Union. 'E waxes 'is merstarsh to sich an extent thet it's a danger to the people wot 'e passes in the street. . . . *Do I know 'im?* No; I carn't say 'xackly as I *knows* 'im. I seen 'is picsher in the papers once . . . *Should I know 'im again?* I don't know as I should . . . *Wot do I want to drag 'is name up for?* I never dragged it up—I was on'y sayin'. You needn't look so bloomin' fierce at me in the glarss, mister. Is 'e a pal o' yours? . . . Eh? *You're John Bromley 'isself?* Please ter meet cher. Queer thing, I was wonderin' w'ether it 'ud ever be my luck to 'ave a word with you. W'en I read as 'ow you proposed—or was it threatened?—a railway strike in England to sort of 'elp the Guv'ment to settle the Irish question, I thort to meself, thet's a man as I should like to meet. 'E must 'ave one o' them brains wot puzzles the doctors . . . *Insullin'?* *'Oo's* insultin'? I'm on'y sayin'. I tell yer, I nearly busted me own brain box tryin' to think 'ow you worked it out. The on'y conclusion I come to was thet you proposed to make yerself a sorter bloomin' dictater of the British Empire by threatenin' to stop the trains unless the Guv'ment done jest exactly wot chew told 'em to. Thet's w'en I sed to meself, I'd like to see thet feller. 'Ere's a bloke recommendin' direct action of the strongest sort w'en the railway men wot 'e leads 'ave already turned thet policy down! Now, between you an' me, sir, you don't look a man o' thet sort. You looks too comferble an' good 'earted. It's on'y yer merstarsh. I s'pose you try to live up to thet, and 'as to say them fierce things. But chew cawn't mean it—not reely. You cawn't honestly say as the best way to settle the Irish question would be to put the English people—jest the ordinary workin' English people—to a lot of unnecessary bother an' worry, not to say loss an' misery, by stoppin' the trains? . . . . *You never looked at it from thet point o' view?* Ah, I thort you never! But 'avin' done so—an' 'avin' read wot Lloyd George 'ad to say about it, eh?—you've changed yer mind, wot? . . . Oh, *you won't go so fur as to say thet?* Never mind, mister, I won't press yer. I've seen the twinkle in yer eye. Thet's enough fur me . . . I shall 'ave to chawge yer sixpence . . . Thank yer . . . Goo' day, sir!

"Mystery Diseases"

Pronouncement by Ministry of Health

Be Better Nourished.

THE important memorandum drawn up by eminent doctors and just issued by the Ministry of Health, shows that the recent Influenza epidemic caused more deaths than did the whole of the fighting in the Great War. Is the danger over? The reply is found in this significant statement from the doctors' report:—

"What is the world's outlook on future pestilences and dangers? The answer is that it is gloomy."

This view is largely based on the fact that neither the cause nor the cure of certain mystery diseases (including Influenza) has yet been discovered. *The way of safety where there is no known cure is to avoid catching the disease.*

The chief recommendations of the doctors are: "A sanitary environment for the community and the sound nutrition of the individual. They are the bed-rock. Out of them spring the sources of National vitality." In effect they say: "Be better nourished." Even those people who "eat well" are often below the safety line of nourishment, and easily fall victims to "mystery germs." It is in such cases that Bovril is of inestimable value as the food which makes other foods more nourishing. It is the food which, owing to its power to assist in the assimilation of other foods, possesses body-building powers equal to from 10 to 20 times the amount taken. This has been proved by independent scientific experiments.

Guard yourself against "Mystery Diseases." Make a habit of being properly nourished.

You are sure of being nourished if you take

BOVRIL

9 Yards of Genuine Scotch Tweed for 50/-

Special Discount to "J.B." Readers

SPECIAL DISCOUNT

EXTENSION OF DATE.

On all orders received before the last post on February 28, 1921, we will make a special 5% discount (one shilling in the £) to "John Bull" readers provided that our stocks are not exhausted before that date

The most wonderful bargain in Scotch Tweeds ever offered.

No Woman who is wanting a Spring Costume, and no Man who is about to order a Sporting Suit, can afford to pass by this amazing opportunity. In order to clear a large stock of our famous Scotch Tweeds as quickly as possible, we are making the unprecedented offer of Special Costume Lengths of 9 yards (28 inches wide) for 50/-. This figure is far below actual Manufacturers' prices.

If you wish to see the tremendous saving you make through purchasing these Tweeds, compare the above prices with those ruling elsewhere. These Scotch Homespuns which we are offering are of the very highest quality. They are made under the patronage of Lord and Lady Seaforth, by Sailors and Soldiers disabled in the War. As evidence of the sterling merit of these materials a *three years' signed Guarantee will be given with every Costume-length purchased.* As our Stocks are limited, we can only guarantee to keep the present offer open until our supplies are exhausted. All applications will be dealt with in strict rotation. Please apply for liberal range of Patterns, showing many exclusive designs, on Coupon below. Kindly state whether Materials are required for Ladies' or Gentlemen's wear.

N.B.—For those who desire it, we can arrange for Materials to be made-up.

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PREMIER TAKES H

Opportunist Adoption of Independent

By THE ED

IT is just as I expected—and as I prophesied. Not only has the Dover election compelled the Government to drop at once the pernicious Excess Profits Duty—which was a terrible clog upon commercial enterprise—and to revise radically its Estimates for the coming financial year, but Mr. Lloyd George himself has come into the limelight to pay at any rate lip-service to the gospel I have been preaching for a long time past. Indeed, he is now standing at the portals of the Independent Tabernacle, professing to have espoused its doctrine but afraid to enter. You see, he is the champion Political Opportunist of our time—and, to change the metaphor, burning his boats has never been any part of his policy. He prefers always to hold himself free to say "Just so—I quite agree" to any new formula which may catch the public imagination. For the moment, however, he is showing the healthy effect of Dr. Bull's prescription of *Pulv. ipecac. co.*, or *Pulv Doveri*—two alternative forms of prescription for the famous "Dover Powder." Thus we have him now telling the country—oblivious of all he has said before—that "Germany can and *shall* pay"—unconsciously repeating the words of our recent contents bill. Then he proceeds, by a subtle play upon words, to send the people to sleep by the dictum that "Germany is morally bound to pay for all the damage inflicted by her wanton acts, and by every principle of jurisprudence in every civilised community in the world a country, just like an individual, is responsible for its own acts. That is a principle that nations cannot get away from. They ought to be just as responsible as an individual for any damage which they inflict upon their neighbours." Quite so—but then why limit the responsibility to a sum which does little more than cover the cost of the war to Britain alone—and why, on every conceivable occasion, artfully substitute the word "Reparation" for "Indemnities"? No sooner, however, had the Prime Minister enunciated the above doctrine than he hurried to explain that "you can only recover from another what he is capable of paying; you cannot get more out of him than he has got." And, following this line of argument, Mr. Lloyd George goes on to say that in the case of a private individual his solicitor would advise him that he "had better see an accountant and valuer as to what a debtor is capable of paying, and having received his report"—as though, by the way, an accountant and valuer were one and the same person!—"make up his mind to take what he can get and not to worry about any more" Of course, this is all special pleading and balderdash. There is no intention of winding Germany up. Germany is to be allowed every opportunity of recovering her prosperity; and personally I have not an atom of doubt that she will succeed in doing so. Why, then, any Time Limit upon what I prefer to call the Indemnity; and why any limit to the amount less than the total cost of the war to all the Allies? Of course, we do not want our country flooded with cheap German goods by way of Indemnity, but there are many products which could be advantageously handed over by Germany for the benefit of British trade. Take her great forests, for instance. "You cannot remove these forests over the frontier," said the Prime Minister in Paris. Quite so; but you *could*—and should—make Germany send to us huge quantities of wood-pulp to assist our paper manufacturers and bring down the present high price of that commodity. Then, too, she could send us enormous quantities of phosphates and other fertilisers for the benefit of our farmers. And we could do with some of her iron ore. All these things are in the nature of raw material of which our country stands in need, and which would have the effect of enormously stimulating British trade. Oh, for a Business Government! Still, as I say, the Prime Minister is getting on, and perhaps after Hastings and one or two more by-elections—I do not, at the moment say anything about Woolwich; whilst Cardiganshire is merely a fight between the two sections of the old Liberal Party—he will be prepared to take another dose of powder, to clear out thoroughly his political system.

Trouble Not Over.

Another satisfactory feature of his recent speeches, however, has been his candid declaration that "the danger is not yet past." Indeed, he is frank enough to say of the present position that "it worries me, fills me sometimes with dread, when I realise the facts. . . . The danger is still there—the peril of war, the desolation of war, the difficulty of getting things to move and go; *you don't even know where you are in reference to Germany.*" Well, that is an important admission—and, remember, it comes two years and a quarter after the Armistice. Thank Heaven, some of us at least *do* know where we are! We know that Germany is fooling us in regard to her financial position, armaments, and everything else; and we implore the Prime Minister to make it quite clear to Dr. Simon, the German delegate who will shortly be in London, that we see through his game and do not intend to stand any more nonsense. Up to the present, he has captured the Celtic imagination of the Prime Minister, who goes out of his way to give him a certificate of character—forgetting that a Hun is always a Hun, and that a German is always a humbug. Just reflect. The very first obligation imposed upon the Germans by the Peace Treaty was the cost of the maintenance of the Army of Occupation on the Rhine—and such is the simplicity of His Majesty's Ministers, that the Government seriously budgeted for the receipt of fifty millions under this head during the last financial year—with the result that its War Office Estimates went to pot! I do not know how long it is proposed to keep up that Army, but isn't it a positive scandal that the cost of the policing of Germany should fall upon the shoulders of the Allies—and mainly upon Britain? *Let's have a bit on account*—if only that odd thirteen hundred millions out of the 11,300 millions for which the Allies are now stipulating. But, as I say, why any limit to either amount or time? Let the Allies make up their total bills for both territorial and other damage and the cost of the war, and insist upon Germany paying the full

THE PATIENT:—"I rather like these powders, John; I didn't think I should."

S DOVER POWDER.

licy—"Germany Can and Must Pay."

DITOR.

amount as and when she can—with adequate arrangements for checking her resources—even though the payment be spread over a hundred years. Mr. Lloyd George, who knows nothing of business, is all at sea when he takes the illustration of personal insolvency. By the law of our land, we do not grant a bankrupt his discharge if he has been guilty of any serious misconduct. He must come to the Court with clean hands.

More to Swallow.

Although I note with satisfaction the Premier's progress with regard to Reparations and the still-existing peril, I look in vain for any declaration respecting the determination of the Allies to insist upon the redemption of one of the most sacred pledges of the General Election—the trial and punishment of the War Criminals. Mr. Lloyd George must take some more Dover Powders. When Parliament reassembles—as it will have done by the time these lines are read—I intend to drive home this matter upon every possible occasion. Up to the present, not a single one on the list of German officers whose trial we have demanded has been brought before the Court—farcical as is the arrangement for their impeachment before a tribunal of their own countrymen—and the Kaiser is still enjoying himself in Holland! Yet it seems but as yesterday that the country rang with the declaration of the late Prime Minister that "every German who has violated the rules of war shall be brought to justice, whatever his position, and however high his station." How gullible, indeed, is the British public. It is in these circumstances that I propose to give notice of the following Amendment to the Address:—

> That this House humbly expresses its regret that, having regard to the long period which has elapsed since the signing of the Armistice, and to the fact that the country as a whole has so far had no opportunity of expressing its opinion as to the provisions of the various Peace Treaties which have been signed with your late enemies, and of the policy of your Ministers in regard to Indemnities and Reparation and the trial of War Criminals, Your Majesty has not announced your intention of dissolving the present Parliament at an early date.

Let me reiterate what I said a few weeks ago respecting Indemnities. "The plain British citizen declines to concern himself with abstruse economic questions. The view taken is that there must be no wavering until every avenue along which justice may be attained has been definitely explored. To say that this has been done is mere tomfoolery. At the first sight of an 'economic' difficulty our Ministers have shied in nervous fright, instead of buckling to their task with the determination that technical obstacles shall be made to yield to the paramount claims of justice." Perhaps the invigorating air of Paris has given the Prime Minister courage; something—although altogether inadequate—has at last been done—at any rate, so far as words are concerned. We must now await the Conference in London, to see to what extent even this latest decision is modified under the guttural persuasion of the German delegates.

Doctor Dover.

I certainly do not believe what I may call the "conversion" of Mr. Lloyd George was attained by prayer and fasting, or by quiet meditation in the seclusion of Downing Street. I would not even attribute it to the salubrious air of "Chequers," or the tonic effects of week-end golf at Walton Heath—nor do I think it was due to any pressure from M. Briand or other Allied statesmen. My strong view is that the author of the miracle was none other than my friend, Sir Thomas Polson, M.P.—or, in plain terms, I believe that "Dover did it." It occurred to the astute mind of the Prime Minister that after the Dover landslide no Coalition seat in the country was safe. Then began a process of heart searching, culminating in the new attitude revealed at the Paris Conference and the fighting tone of the Birmingham speech. If I may employ a popular classical phrase, there are "no flies" on Lloyd George. Perhaps it comes through his being a Celt, but I fancy the Prime Minister is occasionally a little baffled at our steady-going English temperament. I do not doubt that it was in a mood of full sincerity that the Prime Minister pledged his personal honour to see justice done as between the Allies and their beaten foes. Unfortunately, however, the enthusiasms of the platform are apt to evaporate in the cooler atmosphere of the council chamber; and, as I have repeatedly pointed out in these columns, there has never until now been a clear indication of the Government's intention to redeem even a part of its lavish Election promise. The Dover result, however, was a warning of stupendous significance. Here was an ancient Party stronghold, manned by the stoutest of the old gang—yet carried at a single assault by the forces of Independence. After this, no Government seat in the country could be safe. The phlegmatic English public evidently had tenacious memories; the frothy rhetoric of December, 1918, was not forgotten after all. Still the British taxpayer believed that Germany ought to be made to contribute towards the expenses; to make good the wanton damage wrought to the fabric of civilisation, and to expiate in full her atrocious misdeeds. Such a message from this typical British constituency could not well be ignored. Mr. Lloyd George swallowed his "Dover Powder," and I heartily congratulate the right hon. gentleman upon the vast improvement in his political health. A prominent plank in the Dover platform was the Anti-Waste demand calling for a complete reorganisation of the national finances upon the basis of all-round economy. My medical friends tell me that the effect of a "Dover Powder" is very transient, and that in stubborn cases a frequent repetition of the dose may be necessary. Applying the parable, I can only say that there is no dearth of suitable Independent candidates, and that those of us who have this matter at heart are prepared to "repeat the mixture" as often as circumstances may require.

THE DOCTOR.—"Well, this you can depend upon—
They're sure to do you good."

The PEOPLE'S PULPIT

The readers of "John Bull" discuss matters of Public Interest.

In giving publicity on this page to views of correspondents, preference will be accorded to brief letters or postcards bearing name and address for publication.

All communications must be marked "P.P." in left-hand corner.

Letters and postcards for this page must relate to public, as distinguished from personal, topics.

For short acknowledgments of other letters—selected from our general mail—see "Letter Bag," pages 18 and 19.

Contracts for Germany.

Railway Companies in this country and in the Overseas Dominions are placing large orders for rails and rolling stock outside the Empire, as "British prices are beyond them." Many of these orders have been given to German firms. It is, therefore, *some* consolation to hear the Allied Council have decided to place a tax of 12½ per cent. on future German exports!—Thos. Stuckey, Ashley Down Rd., Bristol.

(*A sound principle undoubtedly, although we shall not shout too loudly till we see the colour of the money.*)

Income Tax Injustice.

A conspicuous inconsistency in the scale of Income Tax allowances is that a married man without a family is allowed £50 for his wife, while the widower for his housekeeper, the bachelor for his housekeeping sister, or the unmarried only son for his housekeeping widowed mother is only allowed £25. It would be more just if this was increased to £50; and would benefit a class most sorely burdened.—Jas. L. Young, Montrose St., Glasgow.

(*Perhaps the idea is to encourage marriage. Still, it seems unfair.*)

Employers' References.

Before a domestic servant is engaged, she is usually required to produce references as to her character, etc. A good girl deserves a good master or mistress, and it would be much fairer to both sides if employers as well as their prospective maids had to produce references from their late servants, describing *their* character. Thus, a good employer would get a good maid, and a good girl a good "place."—George H. Read, Dulwich Common.

(*It is open to any maid to adopt this plan if she thinks it desirable, although some folks with "bad characters" are not as black as they are painted.*)

These "Conferences."

When the Allied Ministers hold a Conference they always select places like Paris, London, or Spa. Why not hold the Conferences in the places that have "seen" the War? In this city there is not one building that has escaped damage. Let the Ministers come to places like this, take one hour's walk, then hold their Conference. They cannot see the results of the War in places like London and Paris.—Mr. J. R. Chrispin, St. Quentin, France.

(*Let us hope that Conferences will soon be over, though we appreciate the suggestion.*)

Five Guineas is paid to the writer of the most interesting letter. That amount has been sent to Mr. A. E. Marshall.

Under False Pretences.

Obtaining money or goods under false pretences is an offence against the law. What then is the position of those M.P.s who obtained their salaries mainly on the strength of the lavish promises given at the last General Election? Many of them had no intention of fulfilling their pledges, or they would have "searched the pockets of the Hun" long ere this. Evidently they find it more convenient to assist the Government in "searching" ours.—V. G. Smith, Kilburn Lane, W.

(*The "position" of these gentlemen is that they are as safe as eggs till the next General Election. After that most of them will be missing.*)

* * * \

A 6 GUINEA ALL WOOL BLUE SERGE SUIT for £3 10 0

TO MEASURE.

Absolutely guaranteed ALL WOOL (*See Conditioning House Certificate quoted below*), **Indigo dyed London Shrunk.**

Cut and tailored to your own measurements (we are exclusively measure tailors, doing no ready-made trade). You will have a suit produced by experts with eighteen years' actual and practical experience of clothes building.

Report of the Conditioning House on the material from which this remarkable £3 10 0 blue serge suiting is made:—

"I HAVE ANALYSED THIS PATTERN OF CLOTH, AND FIND IT COMPOSED ENTIRELY OF WOOL." (Signed) E. H. TOWNEND, for the City of BRADFORD CORPORATION.

NO OTHER FIRM IN THE WORLD COULD WORK ON OUR LOW MARGIN OF PROFIT.

For some time past Barry and Co. have backed their tailoring with the following unqualified guarantee; **2/6** more than the purchase price refunded if goods supplied do not give you entire satisfaction. It is sufficient proof of our ability to give you something not procurable elsewhere that we in no way modify this undertaking. On the contrary, we here and now strengthen it, and now announce that we will refund **5/-** more than the **£3 10s. 0d.**, viz., **£3 15s. 0d.** if you do not consider this blue serge suit the greatest value you have ever enjoyed.

OUR FREE PATTERNS.

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£4 4 0 Suit for £2 10 0 to Measure

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OUR SELF-MEASUREMENT CHART is infallible, and eliminates all risk of faulty measures.

WE UNDERTAKE THE SAFE DELIVERY WITHIN 7 DAYS of every order sent through the post by self-measurement form, or we shall be pleased to show patterns and take measures of those calling at our address. We never under any circumstances press a purchase or induce you to spend more than originally intended.

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Exclusive Measure Tailors,

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One of the FREE GIFTS

It is our constant policy to give the greatest value to Cigarette Smokers.

THIS is a handsome and novel Cigarette Holder with a telescope tube. You press the mouthpiece and out comes the tiny end of the unfinished cigarette without the use of pin or knife blade—the cigarette being smoked to a small fraction of an inch. You save one cigarette in ten by using this holder.

THE "ARCADIAN" CIGARETTE HOLDER cannot be bought. It is one of the 50 gifts for men and women, boys and girls, given to smokers of

Black Cat Cigarettes

10 for 6d

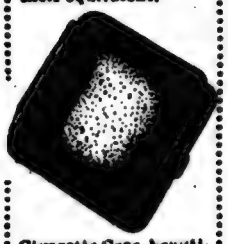
Look for the Green Band on the Box.

BLACK CAT CIGARETTES are unquestionably the best, as well as the largest 10 for 6d. in the market. Made from the choicest selected Virginia Tobacco by the latest improved machinery, they are exceptionally firm and free from dust.

The introduction of the new Baron Cigarette-making Machines, each with a capacity of 700 per minute, has effected a saving, and as this is too small on each package to permit of any price reduction, we are passing it on to our customers in the form of useful gifts for themselves, their wives and children. By buying these gifts in large quantities, and in some cases having them especially made for us, we are enabled to offer really handsome articles.

The 'Arcadian' Cigarette Holder is given for 100 panels of the 10 for 6d. size or 50 panels of the 20 for 1s. size.

Here are two other gifts:—Handsome Plated Safety Razor complete in box. A really serviceable razor equal to any in the market. 100 Panels of the 10 for 6d. size or their equivalent.



Cigarette Case, beautifully finished in black enamel, with gilt interior, holds 10 cigarettes. 100 Panels of the 6d. size or their equivalent. Other gifts include:—Handsome painted Silk Pictures. Pen Knife. Toys for the children. Fountain Pen. Pipe.

Send a postcard to-day for illustrated Catalogue of gifts. There is something in it to suit everybody. Address—

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Get a packet of Black Cat Cigarettes TO-DAY

SAVE THE FRONT PANEL

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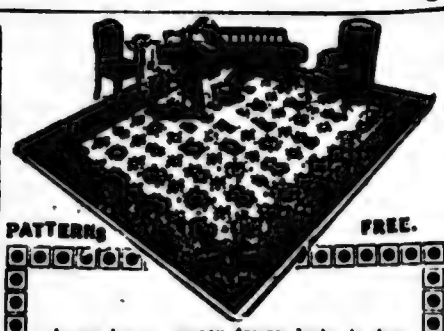

PATTERNS FREE.

As you know, unseen danger lurks in dust. This is a serious and undeniable fact. The best medical authorities—not cranks and faddists—but men of scientific experience and common sense, are continually advising the introduction into the home of dust-saving floor coverings. That means improved health conditions.

Catesbys Cork Lino is the durable make of floor covering medical men advise, for it harbours no dust, and is easily kept absolutely clean.

This means that children and delicate people are enabled to enjoy a state of health Mother Nature originally intended; and adults find supreme comfort in the purer atmosphere Catesbys Cork Lino brings into the home.

This question of floor coverings is very important. Do not read it lightly; learn all you can about it, and to that end start by getting full knowledge about Catesbys Cork Lino. Full information, designs in colour, Prices and samples post free, but call if you can. Get these now, and thus start your quest for home beauty and health without delay. We pay carriage.

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"Keep yourself fit!"

You must keep yourself fit if you wish to be happy. Jagged nerves and frayed tempers are warnings—Your system needs help and toning. Help it at once and so avoid a breakdown. Iron-Ox Tiny Tonic Tablets will re-invigorate your whole system, tone up your liver and nerves, and really do you good.

50 Tablets 1/3
Packed in Metal Boxes.
250 Tablets 5/-
In Bottles. Small metal container for pocket use supplied with each bottle.

IRON-OX Tiny Tonic Tablets

Invaluable in Cases of Anæmia.

ON SALE EVERYWHERE.

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Be Thrifty

Mend Your Own Pots

ANYONE can mend holes in pots, pans, kettles, boilers, buckets, &c., in two minutes without the use of tools.

VOL-PEEK

is a putty-like substance with which the hole or crack is stopped up. It is then put over the fire or gas stove for two minutes to harden. That's all. It gets as hard as the metal itself, and the more it is burnt the harder it gets. It can be used with any kind of metal: iron, brass, copper, tin, aluminium or enamel ware.

Most ironmongers and oilshops sell VOL-PEEK. If you have any difficulty in obtaining, send 1/- for package, enough to mend 20 holes. Your money will be returned if you do not find it all that we claim for it.

R. D. STOREY,

(Dept. H), 110, Edgware Rd., London, W.2.

"BE THOU CLEAN."

THE PLAIN TRUTH STATED IN THE INTERESTS OF RACE PRESERVATION.

By W. CHARLES PILLEY (*Assistant Editor*).

IT has been my aim in this series of articles to consider the means that exist for the avoidance of one of the most terrible scourges that afflict mankind. In such a task I never expected to escape criticism; indeed, it is to me a matter for no small surprise that, out of the enormous bulk of correspondence I have received, so few letters indicate anything like hostility to the policy of preventive treatment as applied to venereal maladies. The fact is, perhaps, that when all is said this old world does grow more sensible as the years roll on, and gradually the ethical objections to the policy of self-protection are yielding to the paramount force of arguments resting upon hygienic and racial grounds. At any rate, decent people are fast reaching unanimity upon two salient points. Allowing the fullest weight to moral considerations, it is absurd to suggest that loathsome disease, eventuating too often in insanity and death, is a suitable punishment for sexual indiscretions. Further, it is monstrous that innocent children should suffer torture through the reckless acts of careless or ill-instructed parents. If we can minimise these evils we shall have taken an enormous stride in the direction of increased health and happiness. Incidentally, the cause of true morality will have immeasurably gained.

The Means of Protection.

That reliable means of protection exist is within the knowledge of all medical men and of every qualified chemist. These are not to be confused with the "early treatment" advocated by the National Council for Combating Venereal Disease, and approved by the Ministry of Health. At the same time, it is curious to notice that the Council has, on occasion, made certain timid advances in the direction of a saner policy—although, here again, characteristically, they have been content with what I call "second-best" recommendations. To state the matter in terms of chemistry, the National Council, with the approval of the Government, have advised the public that immediate self-disinfection with "palmitate of potash" is hygienically excellent; but when it is urged that thorough cleansing with "permanganate of potash"—a far more certain germicide—would be infinitely more effective, the authorities pretend to perceive a subtle moral distinction which, I confess, eludes my grasp. So we arrive at this ridiculous position. If the present ruling of the Ministry of Health is to be final, it is permissible and even desirable after "taking a risk" to wash with soap and water—for that, in homely language, is what a solution of palmitate of potash is—but if a suitable solution of permanganate of potash is used, with the practical certainty of sound disinfection, the situation assumes such an altered shape as to shock the conscience of the Government.

Hypocrisy Run Mad.

Surely this is hypocrisy run mad. No wonder the leading medical supporters of the National Council forsook its standard once it became clear that spurious "morality," and not sound hygiene, was to be its guiding principle. It is important to state that the preventive means indicated as a valuable advance upon the "soap and water" methods of the National Council have already been applied upon an extensive scale, with very remarkable success. At one time during the War it was certainly the intention of the Army Council to place facilities for self-disinfection in the hands of all units of the British Forces, but some official hitch occurred and our men were deprived of the protection enjoyed by the Dominion troops, with results that were tragically illustrated during critical stages of the campaign. It happened, fortunately, that in the Portsmouth Command there was a distinguished M.O. sufficiently courageous and independent to handle this subject in the light of his own medical knowledge, and to risk such penalties as might attach to disobeying War Office instructions. I refer, of course, to Sir G. Archdall Reid, who, by the methods he has since consistently advocated in connection with the work of the Society for the Prevention of Venereal Disease, has practically banished syphilis and gonorrhœa from the forces under his charge. It was a triumphant experiment, the results of which must destroy all doubt as to the efficacy of the methods employed. Perhaps it is the simplicity of the scheme that prevents its universal endorsement by the medical profession.

A Simple Precaution.

A five-grain tablet of permanganate of potash dissolved in a half pint of water as a means of protection seems so much less impressive than the mysteries of "606" and the elaborate officialism of "early treatment." However, it is satisfactory to know that every month sees an accretion of support to the side that is resolved to fight the scourge of venereal disease by any and every method that science can suggest. If the measure of support which I, as a layman, have been able to give to the cause has been of some slight assistance, I am amply repaid, and never shall I regret having had my thoughts specially turned towards the appalling perils of the existing situation. There is scarcely a social problem of the day that does not hinge upon this challenging topic, and, to my mind, the place of every true moralist is in the van of the army of courageous and enlightened men and women who are fighting these dread diseases on broad-minded lines. With human nature as it is, not every man or woman can be technically "pure." They can at least be clean.

All correspondence relating to financial matters should be addressed to the City Editor.

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

ADVICE TO INVESTORS.

By OUR CITY EDITOR.

Each inquiry must bear name and address and be accompanied by a Postal Order for One Shilling.

Tighter Money.

Revenue collections are beginning to exercise their usual influence on the supplies of floating credit, and last week's Bank return showed that "Other Deposits" had been reduced by 23½ millions to £106,330,000. A year ago the total was £132,300,000—and as there are still six weeks of strenuous tax gathering to be faced the market is not feeling cheerful.

E.P.D. Outed.

Not much benefit has accrued to Stock Markets from the official announcement that the Excess Profits Duty is not to be renewed. Everyone knew that it would have to be discontinued, because it threatened to become a source of loss instead of revenue. All the same, it was quite nice of Mr. Chamberlain to give timely intimation of the Cabinet's decision, but as a prominent City man put the position: "it is like bringing a bundle of hay to a starved horse after it is dead."

Amalgamated Photographic Manufacturers.

The American Kodak Company has such a commanding position in the camera world that it is rather pleasing to hear of a strong combination which will help to create a healthy competition. Consequently I wish the above company every success, but £1,100,000 is a terribly heavy capital for such a venture to carry, with £800,000 allocated as purchase price, It should have made a more modest start.

Tobacco Profits.

While smokers groan and grumble about the price they have to pay for their indulgence, the Imperial Tobacco Company waxes more prosperous every year. Profits for the past twelve months amounted to £6,650,000, an increase of almost £2,000,000 over the previous year, and the dividend is 17½ per cent. tax free (equivalent to 25 per cent. less tax), against 15 per cent., although in the meantime the ordinary capital has been increased from 16½ to about 22½ millions. Reserves, including share premiums, now amount to over 11½ millions, and the consumer may well wonder when he is to reap some benefit from such wonderful prosperity.

Non-Profiteering.

The Committee on Profiteering which examined the tobacco trade recently acquitted the Imperial Company of exacting an undue margin of profit, and that serves to emphasise how enormous its overturn must be. Lever Bros., occupying a similar position in the soap business, have not been so successful—for the Committee which has been worrying itself on the subject has come to the conclusion that the price ought to be reduced from 10d. to 8½d. per lb. Lord Leverhulme replies that we get the cheapest soap in the world, but anyway he will reduce the price to 9d. It is rather an amusing tangle, but it will right itself in time.

'Bus and Tube Results.

No charge of profiteering can be made against the Underground Electric Co., which controls the 'bus traffic of London as well as the 'Tubes. Traffic receipts last year amounted to £10,900,000, an increase of £1,800,000 or nearly 20 per cent., but operating expenses were £2,200,000 higher, owing to the increased cost of labour, fuel and other materials, and the net income is £145,000 smaller. Dividends have had to be reduced all round—that on the 6 per cent. Income bonds, in which investors are chiefly interested, being only 2 per cent. against 4 per cent. Of course the higher fares recently introduced have not yet had their full effect, and the bonds look rather attractive at the present price.

Oil Troubles.

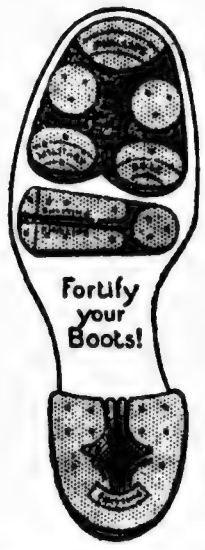
There has been very persistent liquidation in the Oil Market for some time, and prices have sagged in very distressing fashion. A "cut" in the price of crude oil, with talk of a rate war among the big groups, was advanced as an explanation of the movement, and no doubt this has helped to accentuate the trouble. The fact, however, seems to be that financial difficulties have cropped up in various foreign centres—New York, Paris and Amsterdam—as well as in the Provinces; and as some of the leading oil shares are the only group enjoying a fairly free international market, they have been sold to provide against losses in other directions.

Look, Mother !

"I've got Phillips' Rubbers on my boots like Daddy, and now my feet cannot get wet."

Mother, too, who is on her feet all day appreciates the "springy" comfort of Phillips', which are a boon to every member of the family. They make her dress allowance go further and stop that wearisome, noisy clatter of the children's feet.

SOLES AND HEELS. (per set).		HEELS ONLY: (per pair).	
Small Children's ...	... 2/-	Ladies'	... 1/-
Ladies' & Children's	... 3/-	Men's (Light) ...	... 1/6
Youths' (Stout) ...	... 4/-	Men's (Stout) ...	... 2/-
Men's (Light) ...	... 4/6	Fixing extra.	
Men's (Stout) ...	... 5/6	Sold by Bootmen Everywhere.	



Phillips RUBBERS

"Last the time of three"

THE STORY OF TOBACCO. *No. 2—The First Pipe.*

THE American Indians who first discovered that tobacco smoke was pleasant to inhale, may be credited with inventing the first pipe. As the sense of smell was the first indication of the possibilities of the weed, it suggested that they should smoke through the nostrils, which was done by means of a forked stick, the butt end being hollowed in order to hold the tobacco, and the forked end bored to form a double tube, which was inserted in the nostrils. An early chronicler observes that after a time the Indians showed signs of intoxication and then of insensibility; but this early tobacco was rank and uncultivated and had only the germ of the qualities possessed by Player's "Country Life" —the perfect pipe tobacco of to-day.

PLAYER'S

"COUNTRY LIFE"

Tobacco and Cigarettes.

TOBACCO	CIGARETTES
Mild & Medium Strengths	Pink Packet 10 for 6d.
1/- per oz. 4/- per ¼lb. Tin	Blue Packet 10 for 5½d.

JOHN PLAYER & SONS, NOTTINGHAM.

Branch of The Imperial Tobacco Co. (of Great Britain and Ireland), Ltd.

CLARNICO

BEAUX' BELLES.

Would you learn, bashful Beaux, how to 'ring' bridal Belles? Give them CLARNICO 'LILY' AND 'CREAM' CARAMELS.

CLARNICO

VELVET.VELVET.VELVET.VELVET.VELVET.VELVET.VELVET.VELVET.

A trusty Servant - a demon for work - my Services are yours for the sum of

3d each

Velvet Pencils

OF ALL STATIONERS

"Velvet" 173-5 Lower Clapton Road, E 5

VELVET.VELVET.VELVET.VELVET.VELVET.VELVET.VELVET.VELVET.

TOMMY, JACK, AND BADGERS.

OUR PLEDGE.—"No case of hardship or injustice, no instance of beggarly treatment or mean cheese paring, shall go unchallenged or unremedied."—*Horatio Bottomley*, 19th August, 1916.

Absent-minded Beggars:—There are over 300 unclaimed Mons Stars due to regular Dragoons, Lancers, and Hussars, also to Yeomanry. Application for the decorations should be made to the Officer in Charge of Cavalry Records, Canterbury.

Back to Normal:—Since August, 1914, the Army at home and abroad has been "on active service," but in a very short time active service will be abolished by Army Order. To make matters plain to Tommy, and prevent correspondence, this will not mean an increase in pay.

When?—When will the instructors of the Hon. Artillery Company be granted the housing to which they are entitled at the Armoury House, Finsbury? Perhaps the O. C. will inquire.

Oliver Twists:—The No. 9 Mob. Co., R.A.S.C., M.T., at Lakedown Camp, Salisbury, complain about skimpy rations and hard work. We pass over the latter, as hard work is best for most men. But with falling prices there is no excuse for ill-feeding. One fellow says, "It's damnable," and on the showing of the complaint we are inclined to agree with him.

What about It?—About 40 men of the 11th Hussars arrived at Aldershot from Egypt in December, and are still attached to the 13th Hussars for discharge. Why not send them home at once? Unless this is done, we are afraid there may be a "harness cut," or something like it a little later on.

"Chuck Him Out, the Brute" — Thank Kipling for this heading. Is it true that Roehampton Hospital is getting rid of its ex-soldier orderlies and keeping on civilians, who could not tell the difference between the heel-plate and the muzzle of a rifle? If so, we simply say that it is abominable, and a snub for the King, who wants to see every ex-Tommy employed.

Tommy's Letters: Numerous communications find their way to us complaining of the delays in the military post in Ireland. It is unfortunate that such hitches should occur; but Tommy should remember that the only weapon with which disloyal propaganda, directed to our troops, can be dealt is a strict censorship, and such, we understand, was established in Ireland some time back—when an official notification was issued to the effect that there would be delays in the delivery of soldiers' letters in that distressful country. We trust that this explanation will satisfy Tommy and his friends.

About Time:—Sometimes a new name removes an unsavoury reputation from a district. Kinmel Park in Wales and Catterick Camp in Yorkshire were two of the worst. We note now that the former is to be called the "Rhyl Hutments." We trust that the change of name will bring improvement.

In Ireland:—There is a detachment of the 2nd Border Regiment in Galway who appear to be much over-worked. If we gave full details, General Macready might become angry—as on other occasions when we criticised the grievances of his garrison. We only suggest that he should send a Staff Officer to inquire.

Jack's Money:—Naval salvage money is ready for distribution to the officers and crew of H.M. tug *Roner* for salving the s.s. *Wellington* between the 14th and 16th January, 1920; and to those of the R.F.A. *Dapper*, H.M. tugs *Woonda* and *Stormcock* and the tank vessel *Irish Co-operator* for the salvage of the schooner *Markussund* on the 9th September, 1919.

Our Daily "Thank You":—From H. L., Brighton:—"I am very grateful to you for assisting to have my arrears of pension put through so quickly. Whatever would we poor wrecks of humanity do without your assistance? I am about to start work, and shall not forget your Fund."

RACING NOTES.

(All enquiries in respect of sporting matters will be dealt with in the correspondence columns of the SPORTING LIFE.)

National Situation.

We prepared our readers for the scratching of Always out of the National when expressing surprise in finding him among the acceptances. Those who have lost their money after what was written here three weeks ago only have themselves to blame. Having taken Ballyboggan and Clonree to represent us when the weights appear, we can now view the situation with satisfaction. The glamour for Coulthwaite's horses may now diminish with Glencorrig's failure at Haydock Park, though it has to be remembered that the distance of that race was only two miles.

Ugly Duckling Once More.

Not until we know for certain whether Ugly Duckling will see the post shall we commit ourselves even to the extent of discussing his winning prospects for the Lincolnshire Handicap. Even if delivered on the Carholme in the best of racing trim, it will not be a foregone conclusion for him to beat Corn Sack. Mr. J. B. Joel's horse defeated him pointless at Derby. A horse that is being seriously trained for the race is Poltava.

WEEK'S SELECTIONS.

LUDLOW—WEDNESDAY.
Beginners' Chase—*CONELLY.
Bromfield Hurdle—SABIAN.
Amateur Riders' Hurdle—LUKEWARM.

LUDLOW—THURSDAY.
Caynham Hurdle—JENNY JONES.
Trial Chase—A DOUBLE ESCAPE.
Novices' Hurdle—*MY LAND.

GATWICK—FRIDAY.
Rostrum Chase—SALT SPRAY; if absent, MACMERRY.
National Trial Chase II.—*BALLYSAX.
International Hurdle—HEDU.

GATWICK—SATURDAY.
Chequers' Chase—MILLIGAN.
Tantivy Chase—STEADY MARCH.
National Trial Chase I.—CLONREE.
Stayers' Hurdle—*KIRKHARLE.

"The Greatest of These—"

(Registered under the War Charities Act as the JOHN BULL *War Sufferers' Fund.)*

Among the numerous cases we assisted during the week were the following:—

"On the Parish":—A man who is out of work has a wife and several small children, one of whom is ill. As their sole support is the parish allowance, they could not obtain the special diet for the youngster ordered by the doctor; but we saw to it.

A Peck of Trouble:—Left a widow with five young orphans, one only a few weeks old, an unfortunate woman approached us with the usual success.

Almost as Bad:—A man has been unable to work for several weeks owing to the effects of German gas and bronchitis. His wife is also ill. Rent and a doctor's bill were owing, and there was little food in the house.

The Last Gasp:—The case of an ex-soldier who cannot work owing to illness. With his wife and children he was sadly in need, and the landlord was holding the sword of eviction over his head.

Very Badly Off:—Here again eviction was threatened. In this case there were four hungry children—one of them a cripple. The father is ill, and his appeal for pension has been dismissed because his disability is not due to war service. The plight of the "home" was very dire until we stepped in.

The Daily Task:—Still we are daily asked, with success, to bury the dead of the poor, and, on the other hand, to provide comfort for the mother and the little new arrival. Have you any baby clothing to send us?

"CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME."

Once more we make moan and ask you to assist us to alleviate the awful distress that exists north, south, east and west throughout the Kingdom. We almost feel inclined to say "Sinn Fein," which means "We ourselves." You have seen the full page advertisements in our biggest papers asking you to send your money for the help of the starving Austrian children; you have no doubt read the present special articles by reputable correspondents in Austria, telling about the sad riot of rich orgies and the reckless throwing away of mints of money on what is called "pleasure" in the same country. Also, you see week by week the additional thousands of men who are thrown out of work in London alone!

Should English people send their doles to Austria while the Austrians spend their wealth on gay living? Charity begins at home, and God knows there is much need for our charity in England. Dry up the wells of doles that England is sending to the children of our enemies in Austria, whose natural protectors are spending their millions on gaiety and "high living." Remember the poor broken fellows who fought from Mons to the Marne and back, who faced Vimy and the rest of the jobs that, we are afraid, are almost forgotten by most of our people. Again: charity begins at home, and our broken heroes—we *mean* "heroes"—should be our first charge.

We should like to see a balance sheet of this starving Austrian Children's Fund, and discover how much has been paid for advertisements and to salaried agents. Please remember that ours is the Fund that has not an official who receives a sixpence for his services, that pays every farthing of the cost of administration, and that helps the British poor, remembering that "charity begins at home." As an indication of the good work done by our Fund, through our readers' kindness, we may mention that the grants sent out to distressed families during the past five weeks totalled over £800.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE FUND.

E. G. (Doncaster), 10s.; "Bertie and Clarence," 2s.; "Old Soldier" (Heywood), £1; "Cardiff," £1, E. L., 1s.; E. T., 1s.; "Ex-Tommy," 5s.; A. J., 2s. 6d.; H. S. (Chiswick), 1s.; "A Persistent Bulleteer," 2s. 6d.; Mrs. F. S. B. (Pretoria), 5s.; W., £1: "Ex-R.E.F. Waac," 10s.; F. W. (Boston), 1s.; T. R. T. (Norwich), 5s.; "An Ex-Gunner," 5s. 6d.; "Jinks," 5s.; A. F. B., 10s.; "An Old Couple," 4s.; H. B. H. (Tooting), 2s. 6d.; Anon., 6d.; Mrs. L. N. (Bury), 1s. 6d.; E. D., 10s.; M. B. (Dukinfield), 2s.; Mrs. D. (Dundee), 1s. 6d.; A. H. N., £1; H. C. (Gosport), 1s.; Collection on Christmas Day (per A. D. S.), 6s. 6d.; "A Scott," 10s.; Miss G., 2s. 6d.; W. H., £1; C. B. (Flint), 1s. 1d.; D. McA., 6d.; Mrs. R. K. (Beckenham), 2s.; "Skelton's Party," 3s. 6d.; "Geo. H.," 1s. 6d.; E. S., 10s.; J. W. T. (Wallingford), 2s.; "Hamish," 1s.; M. M. C. H. (Sunderland), £1; "The Mince Pie," 3s.; Mrs. and Miss H. (Preston), 2s.; "We Are Seven," £1; Mrs. H., 5s.; "An Old G.H.R. Man," 10s.; T. K. (Devonport), 5s.; G. E. (Albrighton), 2s.; H. M. H., £3; Mrs. A. H. (Woking), 4s. 6d. and clothes; "Holdstrong," 2s. 6d.; T. C., 10s; E. M. L. I., 5s.; T. H. J., £1; A. H. W., £1; H. L. J. (Montrose), £1; H. G. B., 2s. 6d.; B. (Orkney), 10s.; H. C. (Gleanaire), 5s.; R. S. (Bridlington), 15s.; "A Sailor's Wife," 5s.; F. S. and F. M. S. (Littleport), 2s. 6d.; T. S. B. (Morecambe), 5s.; W. L., 6d.; F. C. (Portsea), £3 2s.; J. S. (Dover), £2 7s. 6d.; R. O. (Southampton), 2s.; L. M. (Invergordon), 2s. 6d.; G. and L. F., £5; "Two Ex-Waacs," 7s. 6d.; J. H. (Bournemouth), 5s.; L. B. M. and A. B. M., £1; W. S., 2s. 6d.; F. B. (Kensington), 2s. 6d.; Mrs. C. L. H. (per E. J.), £1; Smoking Concert, Sergts. Mess, Larkhill, £1 10s.; "14th Div." (Southall), £1; "Sympathy," 7s; "Dorita" (Swindon), 2s. 6d.; L. G. (Westcliff), 5s.; Mrs. L. (New York), 14s. 6d.; T. W. C., £1; "Disabled" (Kimberley), 2s; J. H. (St. Helens), 10s.; "A Reader from Oberat, 1917," 5s.; Anon. (Penge), £1; "My Mite," 5s.; "Y. Z.," 5s.; "The John Ruskin Band of Mercy" (Sheffield), 10s.; R. W. (Mitcham), £1; H. R. W. (Tottenham), 10s.; Anon. (Calabar), £1; "Tom's Chum," 5s.; A. R. B. (Ottershaw), £1 5s.; "South Ealing Reader," 4s.; H. G. (Manchester), 5s.; Dance Club, H.M.S. *Cardiff* (Gibraltar), £3 10s.; A. G. (Sheffield), £1; J. E. C. (Ilford), 5s.; Mrs. H. G. (Torquay), £1; Mrs. M. (Willesden), 2s. and parcel; "Dove," 5s.; F. H. W. (Whitby), 4s.; E. G. 1s.; M. M. W. (Stratford), 10s.; "Mack," 7s. 6d.; J. F. (Forest Gate), 2s.; G. M. (Bridgwater), 2s.; E. B. L. (Whitburn), 1s. 6d.; J. C. (Fratton), 2s. 3d.; W. H. (Fulham), 2s. 6d.; "A Friend," £1; "Wiltsam's Court Fee," 3s.; S. A. E. (Hoylake), 10s.; E. J. K., 10s. and ring; C. W. (Tring), £1; Mrs. S. and Mr. A. M. J., 5s.; "A Grateful Reader" (Halifax), 2s.; "Bullets Competitor," 3d.; S. C., 1s.; F. F. L. (Witney), 1s.; D. B., 6d.; A. H. D., 1s. 6d.; "Mist" (Low Moor), 1s.; "Ex-Guardsman," 6d.; J. H. (Aberdare), 6d.; A. B., 6d.; J. R., 5s.; M. Y., 1s.; H. A. W., 6d.; A. D., 1s; A. V. B., 1s.; J. R., 2s. 6d.; C. M. B., 6d.; Anon, 1s.; A. B., 6d.; W. L. (Southsea), 1s.; Anon. (Sidcup), 1s.; W. J. B. 5s.; F. G. W. (Harpenden), 6d.; "Reader" (Bristol), 6d.; "Target Prize," 10s.; "Harthill Canteen" (Liverpool), 5s.

(Further acknowledgments unavoidably held over.)

SMALL ADS. WORTH WATCHING

18/- per line. (Minimum 3 lines).

BEST AND CHEAPEST wholesale warehouse for beginners. Remnants, Drapery, Ready-mades, Travellers' Samples. Send for catalogue.—Cochrane's Warehouse, 1, Victoria Bridge, Manchester.

GOOD SPARE-TIME AGENCY.—Applications invited from respectable working men in regular employment to supply Boots, Suits, Drapery, Watches and Jewellery for cash or credit. Liberal supply of samples. Commission highest paid.—Apply, Freeman, Contractors, H.M. Government, Lavender Hill, London.

"A SURE LIVING" Selling Ready-mades and General Drapery. Quick sale, big profits. No experience required. Sample Parcels from 10/6, Bales from £2. Satisfaction guaranteed. Repeat Orders arriving daily. Price List and "Beginners' Guide" Free.—R. Falatine Warehouse, 63B, Mossley Street, Manchester.

SUITS, Overcoats, turned successfully. Descriptive booklet and price list, write the Invisible Repair Co., Dept. J.B., St. Martin's Court, Ludgate Hill, E.C.4. Established 1906.

£5 to £10 per week can be easily earned for a small outlay of 20/-; no previous experience necessary.—Write for particulars to H. Lovaine (Dept. J.B.), 145, Houndsditch, London.

REAL HARRIS and Lewis Homespuns. Direct from makers; best quality only, patterns free.—Harris Tweed Depot, James Street, Stornoway.

FREE!—Write for Catalogue (How to Commence in Business with £2).—E. Marks, 154-155, Houndsditch, E.1. Cheapest Wholesale House.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.—Unskilled men and skilled tradesmen for many trades required, including clerks, hospital orderlies, storekeepers, etc. Ages 18 to 38 ex-Service men and 18 to 28 civilians. Pay commences at rates between 3/- and 5/6 per day, according to trade. Marriage allowance paid to married men of 26 years and over with allowance for children.—Call or write, Inspector of Recruiting, 4, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2.

GREGG SHORTHAND, THE GREAT ANGLO-AMERICAN SYSTEM.—Simple, legible, rapid. Booklet FREE.—The Gregg Publishing Co. (Dept. J), 9, Garrick Street, London, W.C.2.

DO YOU ADVERTISE?—Your advertisement inserted in 58 Provincial Newspapers for 5/6. London and suburban series same price.—Write for prospectus, Central Press (Series Dept. 60), 190, Strand, London, W.2.

FOR ALL NERVE TROUBLES send postcard for free sample of Curacos—the Liquid Nerve Tonic—to Curacos Co. (Sec. 2), Elm Grove, London, S.E.15.

£2 WILL commence you in business offering great scope. £5-£10 can be earned weekly.—Write for particulars, H. Marks, 51-52, Houndsditch, London, E.1. Cheapest wholesale warehouse for Drapery, Boots, and Clothing.

LEARN to write advertisements and earn from £5 to £10 weekly upwards, both sexes.—Write, Secretary, Dept. J.B., Dixon Institute of Advertising, 195, Oxford Street, London.

HOW to become a Sanitary, Factory, Weights and Measures Inspector, Relieving Officer, Private Secretary, etc.—Write Secretary, Sanitary Training College, 838, High Holborn, London.

BLOUSES.—Parcels from 42. Wholesale List and Advice to Beginners. 2d. stamp.—S. & J. Ireland, Ld., Dept. 5, 69a, Market St., Manchester.

ARE YOU LONELY?—Do you want friends? If so, send 2d. for "THE LINK" (not matrimonial).—LINK, 3, Wine Office Court, E.C.

OVERCOATS, new, for sale, Navy blue nap, fit 37, 39, 41½ chest over vest, 45 10s., a bargain. Cash with order or returned if not approved.—Raphael, 175, Herne Hill, S.E.

SEED! Seed! Pedigree Strains. Reasonable prices. Govt. Germination guaranteed. Scotch Seed Potatoes. Shallots, 14 lb. 5/3, delivered. Onion sets 1/6 lb. Garlic, 1/- lb. Catlg. free.—Gibson's, 25, West Bromwich. Estabd. 1890. Agents wanted.

HARRIS TWEEDS.—Genuine all-wool hand-woven Harris Tweed, direct from Weaver to Wearer. Prices now reduced to 5/6 per yard. Also 54 in. costume and suit materials at 6/-, 6/8, and 10/- per yard. Most of these reduced from 14/6. Special line Blankets, reduced to 21/-.—A Driver, Department 24, Inverness.

5,000 OFFICERS' Field Boots, Laced to Knee, 45/-, new; 5,000 prs. Officers' Brogue Shoes, special value, 21/- (Tan); 5,000 Tan Boots (very smart), 21/-; 5,000 prs. Naval Boots (Black), 21/-; 10,000 Government Flannel Shirts, new, 1/6; 10,000 Mechanics' Blue Overall Suits (new), 5/6; 1,000 Officers Dark Fawn Trench Coats, waterproof shell lining (special value), 65/-; 1,500 Trench Coats, waterproof lined rubber, 30/-; Naval Oilly Coats (Black), 21/-; Government Rubber Thigh Boots (or Waders (new), 17/6; 1,000 Tweed Overcoats, lightweight (new), smart, 21/- All goods post paid. Approval; cash refunded. Lists free.—Army Stores, Regent Road, Gt. Yarmouth.

LISTEN HERE!—You want more money? Right! We'll show you how to earn it. Send us your address.—British Institute Mail Order Traders, Ltd., Fulwood House, London, W.C.1.

ADVERTISEMENT and publicity writing earns £10 weekly at home and opens a new career to either sex.—Send for particulars and free trial to A. G. Shaw (Dept. 301, 57, Red Lion Street, London, W.C.1.

WHY pay 4/- per lb. for Chocolate. We will send you two pound tins of delicious Cup-Royal Chocolate for 4/-, carriage paid. Simply delicious.—A. W. Foster & Co., Ltd., Cup-Royal Chocolate Mills, Lincoln.

"BELLROCK" OILSKINS "Weather the Storm." Direct from Manufacturer to Wearer. Catalogue Free.—Andrew Davie, Ltd., Hilltown Oilskin Factory, Dundee.

WE "TURN" OVERCOATS, Suits as new. Best work. Descriptive list "Z."—London Turning Co., 97, Dowgate Park Road, E.8.

1,000 Costumes and Suit lengths of Indigo Serge. 30/- a length. 56/6 wide.—Cartwright Bros. Indigo Serge Specialists, Stourbridge.

I WILL TEACH YOU BY POST TO PLAY THE PIANO BRILLIANTLY.—You shall get very rapidly from ordinary music and with less than half the usual practice, a grip of the keyboard and ease in reading that will mean exhilarating mastery of music of every kind. Thousands have succeeded and so can you. Send a card now for my illuminating little book, "Mind, Muscle and Keyboard." It explains fully, is beautifully illustrated, and costs you nothing.—Mr. H. Becker, 81, Bristol House, Holborn Viaduct, London.

NINE YARDS 50/- (28 in. wide), Scotch Homespuns; much below cost. Suitable Ladies' Costumes. Splendid value. 5 p.c. discount on all orders received before Feb. 28, 1921. Made by disabled soldiers and sailors.—Free patterns, Seaforth Weaving Institute, 28, Gt. Pulteney Street, W.

TEMPORARY SLUMP IN GALVANISED WIRE NETTING.—Seize the opportunity and buy while the markets are down. Send your specification for special quotations and lists.—Dept. "J.B.," Wallace King, Ltd., Norwich.

JUMPER WOOL.—Beautiful quality, 20 lovely Shades, 10/- per lb. Send for shade card.—Caledonia Hosiery Co. (Dept. J.B.), Bradford.

NEW Spring Suitings at to-day's reduced prices. Any length cut. Patts. free. The Worsted Manufacturing Co. (Dept. 10), 81, Exchange, Huddersfield.

CANARIES, singing, breeding, all varieties, approval, distance no object. Illustrated list, containing valuable information, free. Talking Parrots.—Rudd, Bird Specialist, Norwich.

LOOK Smart at low cost—our "Turning" process doubles life of Suits, Overcoats, Costumes.—City Repair Co., 260, High Holborn (D.B.), London.

NO WATER, no mess. "Dry-Clene" (Medal awarded) cleans and polishes Windows, Mirrors, Porcelain, etc. Sample tin 1/- post free.—"Dry-Clene" Co., 11, Albion Place, London, E.C.1.

THE MOVE-O-GRAPH. — Tickle you to death.—Send 6d. (Dept. M), 60, Doughty Street, W.C.

ANYONE with a taste of lettering can earn £10 weekly in new profession: unlimited scope; rapid tuition; low fee.—Write Gordon K Service, 12, Colston Street, Bristol.

BEGINNERS' OPPORTUNITY. — Blouses, Knitted Goods, etc., direct from makers, in small quantities.—Lists, Stamp, Taylor and Walker, 2, Lister Gate, Nottingham.

The British Remedy.

Owbridge's Lung Tonic

for

COUGHS & COLDS

Ask for "Owbridge" and take no substitute.

Prepared by
W. T. OWBRIDGE, Ltd.
Manufacturers, The Laboratory, HULL.
Established 1874.

Invaluable Evidence

of thousands of Testimonials received through the recent Post-Card Competition is overwhelming proof that

WINOX
WINE FOOD

is far Superior to ordinary Tonic Wines.

The Second Prize Winner, Mr. W. Ford, 46, Preston Road, Preston Park, Brighton, sends this unique Testimonial:

"I suffered from Tubercular Spine and Hip-joint disease. I was encased to the waist in plaster of Paris for 12 months.

Soon after I became a victim to chronic indigestion from this treatment. WINOX WINE FOOD was suggested as a pall-tive and soon I could take my food without any bad after-effect. WINOX kept my strength up in this living tomb and gave me the nerve power necessary to battle through. To-day I am fit and well and can honestly say that without WINOX I could never have passed through the terrible ordeal that few survive, and I venture to say that my living self is the strongest testimony to the value of your product. It was the greatest factor in saving my life, and I take this opportunity of expressing my gratitude to you. Even now I am never without WINOX."

DELICIOUS TO THE PALATE AND BENEFITS GUARANTEED.

BUY A BOTTLE TO-DAY.

Reduced Price **5/6** Champagne Quart Size.

Obtainable from all Licensed Grocers, Chemists and Wine Merchants.

WINOX LTD., RICHMOND, SURREY.

MILLER'S MUSTEROLE—QUICK RELIEF! NO BLISTER!

It soothes and Relieves Like a Mustard Plaster Without the Burn or Sting.

Miller's Musterole is a clean, white ointment, made with oil of mustard. It does all the work of the old-fashioned mustard-plaster—does it better and does not blister. You do not have to bother with a cloth. You simply rub it on—and usually the pain is gone!

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They will gladly tell you what relief it gives from sore throat, bronchitis, croup, stiff neck, asthma, neuralgia, congestion, pleurisy, rheumatism, lumbago, pains and aches of the back or joints, sprains, sore muscles, bruises, chilblains, frosted feet, colds of the chest (it often prevents pneumonia).

2s. 6d. a jar. All chemists.

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MILLER'S
MUSTEROLE
WILL NOT BLISTER

2 pairs for 21/9

The **IRREDUCIBLE MINIMUM** price for men's dependable sewn footwear is now at your service. Every pair here offered is good value at double the price, but to prove that **Rock-Bottom** has been reached we are selling **2 Pairs** of any boots described below for **21/9.**

No. 301.—**Box Derby** Boot. Self Cap, Double Sole.

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No. 303.—Handsome **dark brown** lace boot. Ideal for spring and summer wear.

No. 304.—**Box lace** boot, extra broad fitting last with heavy double sole. Suitable for hard wear.

No. 305.—**Black glace Derby.** Self cap. Heavy double sole.

State numbers and size you want and enclose 1/- EXTRA for postage for each 2 pairs required. Money instantly refunded if purchase not suitable. Single pairs will be supplied at 12/6 with 9d. EXTRA for postage.

(DEPT. N.)
SMITH BROTHERS, LTD.,
OXFORD CIRCUS HOUSE, LONDON, W.1.

All the News in Pictures in The NATIONAL NEWS.

"John Bull's" Letter Bag.

[The EDITOR replies to, and chats with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only should be forwarded in the first instance. For a reply by post on personal subjects, a twopenny stamped envelope must be enclosed.*

LETTERS *must be addressed to the Editor or Publishers, 93, Long Acre, W.C.2, according to whether they relate to Editorial or Publishing matters.* FINANCIAL *or* LEGAL *enquiries should be addressed to the Financial or Legal Editor, and must each be accompanied by a postal order for one shilling. No fee is charged in respect of other enquiries. Full name and address should be given.*

T. S. (Wadlingham).—"I have already told Lloyd George to give room for you." Thanks, we're engaging a furniture van to take us to "No. 10."

"SEVENTH" (Glasgow).—"I have just read your article 'The Seventh Time For Luck.' We didn't read your postcard more than once.

S. R. (Calgary).—"I hear that you are wrapped up in the Government; I hope it is not true." It is not. But we have *rapped* up the Government.

J. G. (Cardiff).—"I hope you will try to cultivate a sense of humour, and then you will live long and die happy." We'll try.

J. G. E. (East Molesey).—"Just a line to let you know I am looking forward to the new independent Business Government." Ditto.

MRS. F. S. (Saxtead).—"When I read about the muddle-headed Government I only wish it were not so." Vote as you wish.

MISS W. (Upper Edmonton).—The simple truth is that we can't afford to keep an army in Armenia.

W. B. (Ponders End).—"All progress or retrogression comes from human effort." Wrong; retrogression is due to *lack* of effort.

H. J. (Aged 9).—You pay us a pretty compliment by sending such a charming photograph of yourself.

J. R. M. (Birmingham).—"I quite agree with you; Shortt must go." Agreement appreciated, but we note Shortt is long in going.

"C. O. WORKS" (Chatham).—"My experience is that there is more slacking among carpenters and joiners, plasterers and plumbers, than among bricklayers." You should know.

B. S. (Rotherhithe).—Thanks. Always glad to give good advice, if only for the fact that we feel better for it.

MRS. E. L. M. (Moss Side).—"Why all this silly nonsense about women jurors?" Echo answers, "Why?"

G. S. (Cork).—Cork too hot just now for us to send one of our staff to interview you for "the benefit of mankind." When the weather gets cooler we may reconsider the matter.

G. A. C. (Greenock).—The Greenock Corporation are no worse than other local bodies here and there about the country, who have no soul to appreciate the significance of war trophies, and can find no better epithet for them than "eye-sores."

"A UNIONIST" (Anonymous).—"I with others, consider it ridiculous for you to keep on so about Dover." A great many Liberals, equally disgruntled, think the same. But you must learn to take your medicine

S. H. S. (Melton Mowbray)—"The Government have neglected their elementary duty." And a good deal of their composite duty also.

J. P. W. (Gloucestershire).—Whatever the price might be per acre, we were always a bit sceptical about comparatively inexperienced ex-Servicemen being able to make a living out of small holdings.

"READER" (Holmfirth).—"When you get a hustle on them dormant Bank balances you will want a guy——" We will keep you in mind.

REV. P. M. (Merton, S.W.).—Your suggestion that we should keep a tame parson at the office to consult on matters ecclesiastical is interesting; but we fear that in this atmosphere he would soon revert to his wild state.

S. L. (Bolton).—You ask us to stultify our own advice with regard to the commutation of pensions. In view of the slump in trade, stick to your sure pension until the clouds roll by.

E. A. L. (Cornwall).—Two papers publish the same picture; in one the locale is Kent, and in the other Penzance. "Who is bluffing?" you ask. Not the *National News*, we can assure you, on the authority of one who knows.

S. & C. (Strand).—Education nowadays isn't a sign of wealth—rather the reverse, so don't be too hard on the poor girls.

H. G. (Chard).—"Widowers are assuredly the most deserving of sympathy." We will mention it to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

A. C. (Manchester).—Girton College, Cambridge, is a women's college. It is therefore not unnatural they should advertise for "a lady head gardener."

"FINCHLEY."—A J.P. who, with five tons of coal in his cellar, has a truckload more put in his stable, deserves to be hauled over the lot of 'em.

"IRISHWOMAN" (United States).—Very rude to write on both sides of paper when we have asked you not to, not to mention your offensive observations.

H. H. J. E. (Ipswich).—By no means send 10s. "registration fee" on the off chance of a situation. It looks like a naughty "have."

H. W. C. H. (Framingham, Mass., U.S.A.).—We've no time for editors like Hackett. There'll probably be frost in Hades before there's a Sinn Fein republic in Ireland.

M. K. (Kingstown).—"I joined up after floating about in the Atlantic." Good; plenty don't know when to come in out of the wet.

S. T. (Halifax).—There should be no obligation to pay N. H. Insurance after 70. You are entitled to a rest.

"READER FOR EVER."—"Flies in the wintertime go into glasshouses and become bluebottles." Well, some policemen certainly are fly.

"IGNORAMUS" (Birmingham).—"I cannot believe that I am the only ignoramus." Judging by our experience there is a very large company of you.

A. E. G. (Birmingham).—On your statement, you have a just claim to reward, but on this earth we don't know where you will get it.

W. A. (Brentwood).—We don't think Mr. Lowe, the hairdresser of you town, really matters. Our tame Barber could put him right in two ticks on the subject of leisure for asylum attendants.

F. J. (Alton).—Millers have been notorious for shady tricks since the world was young, and nowadays some bakers seem determined to acquire a similar reputation.

"REGULAR READER" (Durham).—"How does one start a business?" One popular method is to get someone with more money than wit to finance it.

R. Y. (Hove).—We refrain from printing your "Bullet" lest it should make our other readers envious.

F. E. (Leytonstone).—Catch a Borough Official using anything but a twopenny stamp to send a circular through the post. It would be so undignified to use a halfpenny one!

A. J. D. (Upper Parkstone).—The wheeze has been sent to us 107 times. It has been in print over and over again.

D. P. (Canonbury).—Don't waste a thought on such people. Such dainties to them, their health it might hurt; it's like sending them ruffles when wanting a shirt.

"OLD AGE PENSION."—"To lower the Old Age Pension age and give more." A consummation devoutly to be wished for the sake of many.

"PATER" (Emmanuel Road, S.W.).—To maintain a wife and family in these days on £3 4s. weekly is certainly no joke. Our strong advice is, go easy with the family.

"WATCH DOG" (Croydon).—"I protest against the sale of beef by the Government at a time when scarcity and rising prices press heavily on the poorer classes." Right ho!

J. R. R. (Southampton).—You must be an ideal merchant. Good luck.

"CAPABLE" (Birmingham).—"Practice will enable anybody to do everything with one hand." How do you manage with a wheelbarrow?

J. W. L. (Stafford).—"England as a political entity ceased to exist two centuries ago." But still lively for a corpse as dead as all that.

M. N. (Chorlton-on-M.).—Needs must when Old Nicky drives. She's a bad hen who won't scratch for herself.

J. R. (Toronto).—"The prisoner stands convicted as soon as the charge is read unless he can prove he is innocent." Then for justice, give us the Old Country every time—and Canadian emigrants, beware!

W. H. D. (Weymouth).—"Have I caught you napping?" No; nor bending, either.

G. W. H. (Aldershot).—We see nothing unreasonable in the conditions under which tenants occupy houses under the new Housing Scheme of the Camberley U.D.C. An Englishman's home is not his castle if it is built at the cost of the rate- and tax-payers.

"IDEAS" (London) says: "I have several first-class ideas that merely need money to make me a gentleman of independent means." We've got a few ourselves that merely need money. Anybody got a couple of millions to spare?

J. M. (Hove).—"Which brought the following words to my mind—'There was once a loud mouthed spouter, Who thought he knew more than the speaker,' etc. If you think it worth anything, send along one of your safety pens." Couldn't think of it—you might write some more.

S. M. (Carlisle).—"Why does a yawning man make another man yawn?" Ask us again when it gets nearer Christmas.

W. A. H. (London, W.).—The Increase of Rent Act (1920) bristles with injustices to tenants which can only be removed by further legislation.

"98" (Belfast).—"Never mind, John; when you start the next war you can depend on Ulster." Much obliged.

"ASPDIN" (U.S.A.).—In spite of Yankee abuse, we prefer our "damned fool Government" to Professor Wilson's Pussyfoot administration.

J. F. B. (Leyton, E.).—"Man's inhumanity to man still makes countless thousands mourn." How pleased Bobbie Burns would be to know that you agree with him!

"CORSAIR" (Lancs).—No use to beat the air. The means of your wife are taken into account, and your joint income precludes you from increased pension. Our sympathies are with you in much you urge.

W. D. (Reading).—Your dream of the future is "a combined aeroplane-seaplane-ship-submarine, for land, sea, air, and under-water." No wonder you want somebody else to work out your dream—or nightmare.

"AJAX" (Bow).—We have your cutting about the three litigants in one day—Kettle, Funnell and Potts. Did Potts call the Kettle "black" through the Funnell?

W. W. (Cardiff).—That advert. sounds too much like the Garden of Eden to be safe, though the water diet should stop you seeing snakes!

W. H. M. (London, W.1.).—Please communicate with our Publisher.

L. D. S. (Bermondsey).—Your grievance is too long by a yard. Also we gather you are above the pitch, out of tune, and off the hinges.

M. J. D. (Cardiff).—"Now that you have not any time to read any more I hope you mean by that that the case will come off soon." Our hair will come off soon if you pester us much more.

F. J. L. (Liverpool).—"My prime young Bullock." A very cow-ardly way to address us. But we don't care a toss.

H. R. (Wolverhampton).—The instant dismissal of a waitress is not a matter for us to comment upon until we have heard both sides.

"VEXED" (Leicester).—Having once sacked yourself, you can hardly complain when your employer, having persuaded you to come back, later on returns the compliment.

A. D. (Newcastle).—"Please do not put my name and address in mentioning these facts." Sorry, couldn't find the facts.

H. B. (Victoria).—"Six casual clerks were not required." Well, nobody wants *casual* clerks.

"EASTUS" (Catford).—"They come as a curse and a worry to all, The waster, Sinn Feiner, and telephone call." Have a drink with yourself.

"SCOT" (Greenock).—We have seen it stated that over 50,000 cases of whisky are shipped weekly to the United States of Pussyfoot from the Tail-of-the-Bank at Greenock.

I. C. (Stockton).—The offer of the Universal Trading Co., 89, Cornwallis Road, London, N.19, to send you free of charge a "real Swiss lever watch" if you pay them 8s. 11d. for a worthless chain, is an old trick which we have exposed over and over again.

"AN ENGLISHMAN" (Port Elizabeth).—Things certainly look far from bright in South Africa. A huge influx of patriotic British immigrants might save the situation.

A. C. (Bethnal Green).—It's a shame to persecute little shopkeepers for trying to make a few coppers after 8 p.m.

W. M. (Aberdeen).—We can only assume that the teacher who set that muddled exam. paper was writing under the influence of strong emotion.

LETTER BAG.—(Continued.)

"READER" (Edinboro').—"About time War Service was cut out as a plea for leniency." As a rule, the less the service the quicker the plea.

T. M. (Whitchurch).—Any emigrant who willingly paid 2s. for a cabbage in N.Z. wanted a better head than the one he hangs his hat on.

"CROSS" (London).—A 2d. stamp must be placed on all receipts of £2 or over, even if you can't afford it.

MRS. E. G. (Midlothian).—"Herewith comparisons which produce the present wail about the telephones." Sorry we must ring off. No room.

J. O. (Risby).—"Just a few lines to let you know what sort of Parson we have got." You are in luck, compared with some parishes.

MRS. F. B. (North Malvern).—Those who like working for the "Autocrat of Tomato-Land" can carry on.

R. B. (Northwood).—You have by no means convinced us that your charlady's unfortunate son is not detained in the Asylum for his own good.

"CURIOUS" (British Museum).—You write like a curio. Which room are you in?

J. S. (South Shields).—So you think the "J.B." Puzzle "can't be dun"; wait till we open our safe on March 12th. Have another shot before we show you *how* it's done; there are ten prizes, of £500 in all.

MISS HARRISON BELL (Welwyn).—Glad to hear that it is not that you *won't* employ men on your farm, but that you cannot very well train both sexes together.

THRIFT PRIZE BOND CLUB.—W. L. (Liverpool) and OTHERS.—The meaning of our recent paragraph was simply that the Editor acts as President of this Club in his personal capacity. A large staff is now engaged in connection with the distribution of the Bonds to members, but the work is of a heavy nature, and will necessarily occupy some weeks. All these Bonds are "to bearer."

VICTORY BOND CLUB.—"INVESTOR" and OTHERS.—The reason why members of this Club are paid out on the basis of the market price of the stock represented by their shares, whilst subscribers to the Thrift Prize Bond Club are entitled to withdraw their money in full, is that Victory Bonds stand at a big discount, whilst Credit National remain in the neighbourhood of their issue price.

W. H. B. (Kettering).—No, we have *not* asked "America to take down the statue of Liberty from New York Harbour"—even "to let the rest of the world go by." We think the statue a useful reminder to our American cousins.

G. M. W. (Wisbech).—So the old lady did not find Treasury Notes value £700, but only a deposit note for £100. You should apologise to Barclay's Bank for suggesting that they acted meanly in the matter of reward.

MRS. M. A. (Wallasey).—No, we will not be too hard on the Archdeacon, even though we may have had, as you say, good times we have not talked about. You see, we are not professional moral teachers!

R. A. B.—"What day was January 8th, in 1898?" Can't remember; we've done a lot since then. Expect it had 24 hours in it, anyway.

"ANON." (Blackpool).—We have been snowed under by these "Don'ts" for municipal tenants. We "don't" know the "why" of it all. Ask us something easier.

R. A. (Dinnington).—"It will want a strong man in every country, filled with the devil, to carry out the war of Armageddon coming." Nong Comprong pa.

"IDA" (Brixton).—Quite right. You can't make us vain by writing us verses, for there always are others who send us their curses.

MRS. A. C. M. (Maida Vale).—Thanks for copy of your recent letter to Mr. Clynes. Does he get a copy of ours, or are we the favourite?

"A CONSTANT READER" (Kobenhaven, Denmark).—Your suggestion that the presence of royalty might do much to pacify Ireland is worth serious consideration.

"FUNNY" (Wells).—"What a funny world to be in. What funny laws to have." Sort of tickles one all over, eh?

"READER" (Whitstable).—"I am a Whitstable dredgerman." Sounds like a good job if you don't get drunk and lose it.

A. L. D. (Boston).—"The Government have been spending my money too fast." And they didn't mark time in spending ours.

F. P. (Cho-sen).—We think the missionaries in Japan could have been kept quite busy in this country.

"UNEMPLOYED" (Woolwich) says married women whose husbands are in good employment are still engaged in the local Income Tax Office. If so, it's outrageous.

E. M. P. (Leeds).—Thus: "Fight for our trade, nor idly drift, This England can be saved by thrift." Rhyme and reason.

MRS. B. (Chatham).—It was a dirty trick to read out in Court the convictions recorded against you before your marriage. Like charity, marriage covers a multitude of sins.

H. W. (Battle).—The price of gas at Battle (10s. 10d. per thou.) is not nearly so expensive to the public as the vapour produced at Westminster.

J. C. (Bedford).—"Inform me if there was an N.C.O. in the B.E.F., France, at one of the Bases, that got the D.C.M." Their name was legion.

J. F. H. B. (Bristol).—We cannot conscientiously advise you to commute your pension, to which, moreover, the Authorities might not consent.

"PRIVATE" (Toronto).—You "have frequently seen warnings to emigrants in JOHN BULL." Then what more can we say?

T. E. (Bradford).—"Will you state what salary Mr. Lloyd George received as Premier up to December 19th, 1920?" We didn't know that was his pay-day.

S. P. (Gwyas Harold)—referring to a meeting of the Dore (Hereford) Guardians—says "the Rector constitutes the whole Board." In that case everything ought to be carried *nem. con.*

A. H. C. S. (Wapping).—"Maids, 2, required for bachelor chambers" is not necessarily a new form of white slave trap.

J. A. (Birmingham).—The remedy for "dumping," you think, is "cheaper and superior British workmanship to whack the indomitable Hun." Something in it, no doubt, though we should not have used your last adjective to describe "the blonde beast."

C. L. C. (Oyama, B.C.).—Tom Richardson was M.P. for Whitehaven from 1910 to 1918. A typical "Labour" extremist, we are not sorry that he has transferred his political activities from England to Canada.

"FRIEND" (Limehouse).—"I say it's not the Chinamen's fault; it's the bits of girls that hang around." Do their mothers know they're out?

"SHRIMP BRAND" (Gravesend).—"I am writing this with a JOHN BULL Pen that is as good as new after five years' use." We would send you a fat cheque for that splendid ad. but that it would spoil its fine spontaneity.

"SCHWARTZ" (Strand).—"Handed the editor of your contemporary £100 to hold." Who's holding the editor?

W. A. C. (Matlock).—"It would be refreshing to be owed money for a change." Write yourself an I.O.U. for a thousand.

MRS. S. (Lewisham).—Can quite understand your being "furious," but seeing that your husband pleaded guilty, it would be of no advantage to rekindle dead embers.

H. J. (Reg, Manchester).—Better get somebody else to tell us what you're driving at. We don't know.

E. L. (Stoke Newington).—"What emigrants are landed at Victoria?" All those poor devils who haven't any money.

"REGULAR READER" (Weston-super-Mare).—"What does class 1 Army Reserve consist of, please?" Of the men who joined it.

"JETHARTS' HERE" (Glasgow).—If we thought for one moment that your letter in extenuation of the crime of William Tait, who hanged his dog, was seriously meant, we should say you deserved a similar fate to his victim's.

MR. R. STUFFIN (of 48, Everton Road, Yeovil), winner of the £1,000 prize in "Bullets" Competition No. 401, informs us that he is a discharged soldier and that the money has come at a very opportune moment, as he had not been able to save anything during the War. His biggest prize hitherto had been one of 2s. 6d.

W. F. (Vancouver).—We agree that it is easy to exaggerate the importance of extreme American opinion.

S. C. P. T. (Mumbles).—Sorry cannot forward information required. Our statistician is in a rest home through overwork in trying to keep a record of the sins of squandermania M.P.s.

R. O. J. (Constantinople).—"The details would shame humanity and make civilisation shudder." No, the story really wouldn't make a nigger shudder in the Antarctic!

"TOWNSMAN" (Wellington).—"This Mr. Peek is a Salvation Army official, and also plays the drum, and ought to be shown up for knocking about a poor old man of 70." Your local paper shows him up.

"18 YEARS READER" (Bunnahabhain, Islay).—Sorry it is out of our power to investigate all the matters in your long letter.

E. W. C. (Houndsditch).—For a house, rent £75, only 3 years' lease to run, they ask £500. It is "key money." In fact, a bunch of keys.

"MINER" (Abertridwr).—"Make no mistake, Great Britain is a glorious land, but damn fools live in it—that's the majority of us." Carlyle said something of the same kind.

"A WORKING MAN."—"Trusting you will have the courage to allow this to appear in JOHN BULL." But what about your courage when you do not give us a smell of your name or address?

W. H. (Whitley).—A judge who jokes about a moneylender's interest at "2,000 per cent." had better try to touch us for "a fiver" for a week.

J. O. C. (Kowloon).—"A funny estimate of 200,009 yen." Not at all the odd 9 is obviously intended as discount for cash.

J. A. (London) wants us to crush the "damned rascally crew of Bolsheviks who now run the Postmen's Federation." We suggest that the Federation should do its own crushing.

F. F. S. (Southwick).—"I am not in favour of betting, but I think this is a bit off." Thank your stars you didn't have a bit on.

R. W. (Edinburgh).—Sorry, but you have not convinced us that the opening of our ports to Canadian cattle would not benefit the British consumer.

J. R. (Southend-on-Sea).—A former Captain in the V.A.D. has now no right to the rank unless he was granted special permission by the King to retain it.

U. Y. (Teddington).—Hear all, see all, say nowt! Tell it not in Gath; whisper it not in the streets of Teddington.

F. H. C. (Battersea S.W.).—Cannot agree with you that the "Kaiser was one of God's findings." If you meant His "leavings" we might be disposed to agree.

"BIRMINGHAM CITIZEN."—If you could see no difference betweenthe 6 and 6.30 editions perhaps there wasn't any. Or perhaps you were blind.

(Many replies are unavoidably held over.)

HOW IS IT DONE?

(Copy.)

13, Rembrandt Street, Anfield, Liverpool.

The Manager, "John Bull" Pen Dept.,
87, Long Acre, W.C.2.

Dear Sir,—I received a "John Bull" Pen from you in July, 1918, and it is still as good as when purchased.

For the price it is a *marvel*, and how you manage to sell it at such a small cost is still *more marvellous*.

Thanking you for your kind and prompt attention.—Yours faithfully,

(Signed) EDW. JONES.

"JOHN BULL" Pen Coupon Value 2d.

By sending this coupon with P.O. for 2/3, and 2d. stamps for postage, the holder is entitled to receive a "JOHN BULL" Gold Nibbed Fountain Pen, STANDARD MODEL. Additional Coupons up to 6 from "JOHN BULL," from this date, may be saved and used in part payment, each counting as 2d. off the price. Thus you may send 7 coupons and P.O. for 2/3 only, and 2d. stamps for postage.

DE LUXE MODEL, 1/3 Extra.

Address, Pen Dept., JOHN BULL, Long Acre, London, W.C.2. [*Feb. 19th, 1921.*

P.O.s should be made payable to "John Bull" and crossed & Co.

N.B.—State whether you prefer a Fine, Medium, or Broad Nib.

SEND FOR YOURS TO-DAY.

"BULLETS"

2nd Prize £20

3rd Prize £10

£250 FIRST PRIZE

10 Prizes of £5

10 Prizes of £2 10/-

25 Prizes of 10/-

100 Prizes of 5/-

500 Prizes of 2/6

2,000 TARGET PRIZES

2,000 POPULAR NOVELS

HOW TO MAKE "BULLETS."

First choose any of the Thirty-two examples given below. Then give **TWO, THREE** or **FOUR** words having some bearing on the example chosen. Any **ONE** of the words selected must begin with any letter in the example chosen. The other words selected can begin with any letters in the alphabet. This example will guide you:—
Example:—FAIR FIGHT. Bullet:—FOR SEAT IN PARLIAMENT. Competitors may send in two BULLETS for sixpence. If more coupons are used, an entry fee at the rate of 6d. for each coupon must be sent.

LIST OF EXAMPLES FOR "BULLETS" COMPETITION No. 404.

OUR GOVERNMENT	FIGHTING FOR CUP	AFTER NEXT BUDGET	DAILY ROUND
ASK ME ANOTHER	LUCKY STAR	DANGEROUS	ONE NEVER KNOWS
SPRING POET	EASY AS WINKING	FUN OF THE FAIR	SPENDING WISELY
A LOST ART	MUCH AS USUAL	MEAT AND DRINK	DROP TOO MUCH
READY RECKONER	A GIFT	TO BE SOLD	INCURABLE
IN SMALL DOSES	WHEN FLAPPER LEAVES	CLOSE RACE	HOME AND AWAY
MISUNDERSTOOD	SELFISH	IN THE BEGINNING	IN VAIN
WON'T BE BLUFFED	DUCKS AND DRAKES	BIG NOISE	POWDER AND PUFF

No.____ Closing Date, Thursday Feb. 24th.
Example_____
Bullet

Example_____
Bullet

(404) P.O. No._____
I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page.
With 1 Coupon send P.O. for 6d.

Signed_____
Address_____

No.____ Closing Date, Thursday, Feb. 24th.
Example_____
Bullet

Example_____
Bullet

(404) P.O. No._____
I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page.
With 2 Coupons send P.O. for 1s.

Signed_____
Address_____

Envelopes should be marked "Bullets" No. 404, "John Bull," Long Acre, London, W.C.2.

No.____ Closing Date, Thursday, Feb. 24th.
Example_____
Bullet

Example_____
Bullet

(404) P.O. No._____
I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page.
With 3 Coupons send P.O. for 1s. 6d.

Signed_____
Address_____

No.____ Closing Date, Thursday, Feb. 24th.
Example_____
Bullet

Example_____
Bullet

(404) P.O. No._____
I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page.
With 4 Coupons send P.O. for 2s.

Signed_____
Address_____

SELECTION OF EXAMPLES FOR "BULLETS" COMPETITION No. 405.

THE NEXT PREMIER—MIXED JURY—ON THE STAGE—BOTTOMLEY'S FOLLOWING—PRIZE WORTH WINNING—GETTING HOME STRAIGHT—WHEN LOVE IS BLIND—MY INCOME TAX—SPRING CLEANING—IF WE'RE WISE—MARRIED BLISS—PRE-WAR PRICES—UNLUCKY—LOSING HEART—HANDS OFF—PAYING THE INDEMNITY—LOVELY LIAR—NOTHING ON—BIG AND LITTLE—GUILTY.

These examples can be made use of on the Coupons above, and must reach us on or before **Thursday, March 10th.** All Coupons so used **MUST** be marked clearly with the number **405** in the top left-hand corner, and envelopes containing these Coupons must be addressed "Bullets" No. 405, JOHN BULL, Long Acre, London, W.C.2. Such Coupons must not contain any of the Thirty-two Examples for Competition 404.

List of Ten-Shilling Prizewinners in "Bullets" Competition 402 will be published in next week's "Competitors' Journal." Complete List of all Cash and other Prizewinners can be seen at the offices of "John Bull."

Result of 402nd 'Bullets' Competition

FIRST PRIZE OF £250:

Miss M. Heran,
The Hermitage, St. Michael's, Liverpool.
Example:—NEVER SAY DIE.
Bullet:—BETTER "TAKE YOUR MEDICINE"

SECOND PRIZE OF £20:

Mr. JOHN TINKLER, 53, Spout Lane, Walsall.
Example:—ALL I ASK.
Bullet:—USUAL CONCLUSION SWINDLER'S LETTER.

THIRD PRIZE OF £10:

VENIE McKEE, Scarva St., Banbridge, Ireland.
Example:—THEY SAY THAT.
Bullet:—IRELAND'S HEAVEN—WHAT'S HELL?

10 Prizes of £5 each:

Mr. McLAUGHLIN, 12, Ardgowan St. West, Greenock: UNEARNED—COMPLIMENTS WISE REGARD SUSPICIOUSLY.
Mr. W. E. DANKS, 4, Miranda Road, Holloway, N.19: OUGHT TO GO—EVERYONE TO "BOTTOMLEY'S PARTY"
Mr. RAWLINSON, 23, St. Margaret's Rd., London, N.15: WORTH A PLACE—AMONG PROFITEERING LINES—TELEPHONE.
Mr. F. G. COOKE, Percy Villa, Kinson Rd., East Howe, Bournemouth: A FAIR TERROR—WHILST DEMOCRACY IS TEETHING.
Mrs. B. SHRUBSALL, 30, Clifton Rd., Maida Vale, W.: GAME TO END—WHEN BRITAIN'S "THE FOOTBALL."
Mr. G. REID, Forest Road, Fishponds, Bristol: SPENDING AND SAVING—THERE'S ALWAYS TROUBLE BETWEEN.
Mr. H. W. BUCK, 29, Glossop View, Hyde Pk., Leeds: TEST MATCHES—"FIELD PUNISHMENT" FOR ENGLAND
Mr. J. W. BATTEN, 151, Bury St., Lr. Edmonton, N.9: IN LEAGUE—RATES WITH TAXES EVIDENTLY.
Mr. R. W. GRAHAM, Brewery House, Northwich: WON'T HAVE IT—REFORM AT LIBERTY'S PRICE.
Mr. A. JOHNSON, 87, Park St., Camden Town, N.W. 1: BLACK AND WHITE—COUNSEL BLENDS—JURY SAMPLES.

10 Prizes of £2 10s. each:

Mr. A. J. ASTBURY, Talgarth, Brecon: OUGHT TO GO—FOR NOTHING—GERMAN EXCUSES.
Mrs. KNOWLES, Lowther House, Carforth, Leeds: SEEING LIFE—THERE'S NO "CHEAP EXCURSIONS."
Mr. A. B. COLLIHOLE, 109, Raby St., Wolverhampton: REMEDY FOR UNEMPLOYMENT—"DISSOLVE" COALITION THEN "STIR."
Mr. C. F. CAYZER, 18, Carminia Rd., Balham, S.W.12: IN LEAGUE—"WE SHAN'T BE LONG."
Mr. W. SCHOLEY, 4, Rixholme Av., Wheeler St., Hull: SOLVING THE PUZZLE—CONFERENCES—"No CLOSING DATE."
Mr. J. HUTSON, (c.o.) 49, Farringdon St., E.C.: FINDING THE KEY—SCIENTIST FREQUENTLY LOSES LIFE.
Mr. G. LAITY, 55, Beaufort Rd., St. Thomas, Exeter: GAME TO END—STRIKE MACHINE BECOMING AUTOMATIC.
Mr. A. CROSSLEY, 232, Portland St., Southport: WON'T HAVE IT—IF OPPOSITION SUGGESTED REFORM.
Mr. C. GRIFFIN, late Nursery, W. Ashton, Trowbridge: FINDING THE KEY—TO POPULARITY, IN POCKET.
Mr. W. AMBLER, 4, Avondale Rd., Shipley, Yorks: SOLVING THE PUZZLE—MY LONGEST "SHILLING ENTERTAINMENT."

BULLETS RULES. 1. The First Prize will be awarded for what, in the opinion of the Judges, in consultation with the Editor, is the best "Bullet" received, and the other prizes in order of merit, the test being cleverness, aptness and originality.
2. Bullets must be plainly written on one of the coupons, and only two attempts may be written on each coupon.
3. All four coupons may be used, and a postal order enclosed at the rate of 6d. for each coupon made use of, which must be made payable to JOHN BULL and crossed _____ and Co. Competitors must write their names and addresses and the date of sending the order on the back of the postal order, the number of which must be duly noted on each coupon submitted. Coupons must not be mutilated.
4. All coupons arriving too late to be judged with absolute thoroughness will be duly returned.
5. The Editor undertakes that every Bullet received shall have careful consideration by a competent staff of qualified judges.
6. The Editor's decision on any matter of dispute arising in connection with this competition must be accepted as final and legally binding in all respects, and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry.

NEXT WEEK

WORLD'S RECORD BULLETS OFFER
First Prize-1,000 Guineas
Second Prize 200 Guineas Third Prize 100 Guineas
And Many other EXTRA Prizes

THE JOHN BULL GREAT FREE FIRE INSURANCE

COVERING ALL RISKS BY FIRE TO HOME, LIFE & LIMB.

UNDER this most unique FREE INSURANCE OFFER anyone above the age of 10 can be insured irrespective of sex.
The premium charged by any Fire and Accident Insurance Company to secure similar benefits would certainly exceed 5s. per annum. We offer it to you absolutely free.

We have made our insurance as simple and comprehensive as possible, and shall not bother about any "Legal Representative" or "next of kin." Claims will be paid to the registered reader, who must personally sign the coupon, or to the person nominated thereon, and to no one else.

A separate coupon must be filled up in respect to each person to be insured.

This offer applies only to persons residing in, and properly situated in, England, Scotland, and Wales.

The full conditions governing this scheme will be published from time to time.

WHAT WE WILL PAY:

For Damage to contents of Home by Fire up to	£200
In case of Death directly due to Fire at Registered Reader's home	£200
For the Loss of Two Limbs or Both Eyes, or One Limb and One Eye	£200
For the Loss of One Limb or One Eye	£100
Medical Fees for Injuries not proving fatal but incapacitating the injured person from following his or her employment, up to ..	£10
In the event of a Temporary Total Disablement up to 13 weeks..	£1 per week

ORDER FORM
To be Retained by Newsagent.

To.....
Newsagent.

Please deliver "JOHN BULL" to me regularly until further notice.

Signed.....

Address.....

Feb. 19, 1921.

You must also fill in the Registration Form, which will be found next to this, and post it to JOHN BULL Insurance Dept. 60, Long Acre, London, W.C.2, where your name and the name of your nominee will be duly registered.

REGISTRATION FORM
Which must be posted to—
JOHN BULL INSURANCE DEPT., Long Acre, W.C.2.

This is to notify that I have this day placed an order for the regular weekly supply of JOHN BULL with

.....Newsagent, of

.....

and desire you to register me as a regular subscriber under the terms of your Insurance Scheme.

In the event of my being injured or killed, or of my home or its contents being damaged, I hereby nominate to receive any payment due under this insurance, first myself, or in the event of my death:—

Name of Nominee.....

Address.....

Signature of Insured.....

(Mr., Mrs., or Miss)

Home Address.....

Feb. 19, 1921. .....

To remain qualified for the benefits, readers must continue to have "John Bull" regularly supplied to them.

Enclose 1d. stamp if an acknowledgment of receipt of Registration Form is required.

BIGGEST FOOTBALL PRIZE OFFERED!

£1,500 MUST BE WON

FOR A CORRECT OR NEAREST CORRECT FORECAST OF ONLY 14 MATCHES.

THIS COMPETITION IS EXCLUSIVE TO "JOHN BULL."

Coupons are not published in various other papers. If you want to win the £1,500 prize

YOU CAN ONLY USE COUPONS TAKEN FROM THIS PAPER.

THE sum of £1,500 will be paid to the sender of a coupon containing the correct results of the 14 matches given. If 14 correct results are not given, the £1,500 will be awarded to the sender of the most correct results, so that in any event the £1,500 **MUST BE WON.** We would advise competitors to make a careful study of football form before filling in their coupons. Scottish and Irish readers can compete. Competitors may send in as many coupons as they like.

NO ENTRANCE FEE! NO GOALS REQUIRED!

READ THESE RULES CAREFULLY.

(1) All attempts must be made on coupons taken from the issues of "JOHN BULL" announcing this competition. Coupons must be completely filled in with ink in ordinary handwriting (typewriting or pencil will not be allowed), and in accordance with the instructions given on this page.

(2) The sum of £1,500 (fifteen hundred pounds) will be paid to the competitor sending a coupon containing the correct results of all the matches played to a finish. If no competitor succeeds in giving all the correct results, the sum of £1,500 will be paid to the competitor sending a coupon with the most correct results. In the event of a tie all tied will be equally divided amongst the most successful competitors. No competitor can stand more than one chance of the £1,500. Should any match not be played to a finish on the date given, or as set out on the coupon, it will be disregarded.

HOW TO FILL UP YOUR COUPONS.

If you think the "Home" team will win, place a X in the column headed "Home"; if you think the "Away" team will win, place an X in the column headed "Away"; if you think the result will be a Draw, place a X in the column headed "Draw." **Only one X must be entered for each match.** Coupons must be completely filled up in ink.

(3) Fourteen crosses in all must be marked on each coupon, one for each match. Coupons marked otherwise will be disqualified.

(4) No responsibility will be accepted by the Editor for the loss or non-delivery of any coupon. Proof of posting will not be accepted as proof of delivery or receipt. No correspondence will be entered into nor will interviews be granted.

(5) Any coupon on which an alteration of any kind has been made will be disqualified. Any coupons received later than March 20th, will be disqualified.

(6) The Editor's decision must be accepted as final and legally binding in all matters concerning this Competition, and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry.

Cut out Coupon neatly and address all entries as follows: Football Competition No. 20, "JOHN BULL," 25, Floral Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2. Write "Football" in top left-hand corner of envelope. All coupons can be enclosed in one envelope, but this must not contain entries for other Competitions.

COMPETITORS MAY SEND AS MANY COUPONS AS THEY LIKE.

"JOHN BULL" FREE FOOTBALL COUPON.

Matches to be played on Saturday, March 12th. Coupons must reach us not later than Thursday, March 10th.

Home Team		Away Team	Home	Away	Draw
Chelsea	v.	Sunderland			
Liverpool	v.	Middlesbrough			
Oldham Ath.	v.	West Bromwich A.			
Preston N. E.	v.	Manchester City			
Sheffield Un.	v.	Bolton Wanderers			
Tottenham H.	v.	Everton			
Barnsley	v.	West Ham U.			
Bristol City	v.	Birmingham			
Rotherham C.	v.	Cardiff City			
Stockport County	v.	Stoke			
Merthyr Town	v.	Southampton			
Millwall	v.	Q. P. Rangers			
Plymouth A.	v.	Luton Town			
Swindon Town	v.	Crystal Palace			

Coupons must be cut—not torn out.

I enter "JOHN BULL" Football Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions on this page and agree to accept the Editor's decision as final and legally binding and enter on that understanding.

(20) SIGNED.....

ADDRESS .....

.....

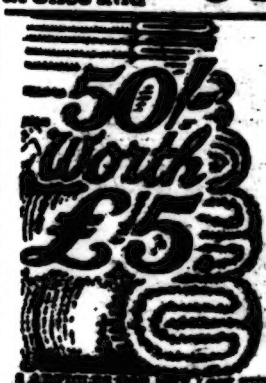
RESULT OF OUR 18th FOOTBALL COMPETITION.

In the above Competition no competitor succeeded in sending a coupon containing the correct results of the 14 matches played on January 29th. The following two Competitors, however, each sent a coupon with 12 correct results and, therefore, divide the prize of £750:—

J. G. DAVERITY, 19, Prince Wales Terrace, Scarborough.

A. TREBBLE, c.o. Royal Bank of Ireland, Foster Place, Dublin.

Please send at once and **CUT THIS OUT** save half your money.



BEDDING.

This advt. only appears TO-DAY.

FOR 10 DAYS ONLY THIS BALE WILL BE SOLD FOR

35/-

While Stock lasts only.

BLANKETS. 8 FOR 23 0 / 4 FOR £1 12 6 — SALE PRICE: 8 for £2-7-6; 4 „ £1-5-0

3,500 yds. Extra Heavy Treble Weave Saxon Mixture BLANKETS — 8 for £ s. d. 3 17 6 / 4 for £2 — 8 for £3-0-0; 4 „ £1-12-6

SEND POSTCARD FOR LIST OF DRAPERY AND HOUSEHOLD BARGAINS.

Send immediately for these marvellous Bargains. We guarantee you cannot buy goods of equal value at 50 per cent. more money. Only cheque or money order can be sent to us to give you these Bargains. All orders taken in strict rotation. Please write clearly and address plainly. Send at once, don't delay, do—

MANCHESTER IMPORT & EXPORT Co., Ltd.,

(Dept. J.B.) 2 to 6, NEW CANNON ST., MANCHESTER.

Buy your SARTOR before Easter

AND SAVE MONEY

UNDER COST till EASTER.

In order to maintain our Staff of skilled workers at full strength, we have decided to sell the whole of our present stock of Sartor Raincoats at LESS THAN COST PRICE.

Half-a-million people are Wearing the Sartor Raincoat—You can get the same Raincoat for 25/6, carriage paid, if you send your order before March 24th. This is less than cost price.

25/6

Carriage Paid.

All orders will be despatched in strict rotation

THE SARTOR RAINCOATS

are made in many styles and shades for Ladies, Gents, Maids and Youths.

Every Sartor is fully lined with a smart check material and equal in fit, style and quality to any Raincoat sold in shops at double the price. Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded in full. Write to-day for Free Patterns and Style Book. SEND NO MONEY before you are convinced that such high value as Sartor value cannot be obtained elsewhere.

NOTE THE DATE **MARCH 24.** But send at once. Write to-day.—This is a genuine bargain offer from the Maker to the public.

THE SARTOR MANUFACTURING CO.

(Dept. J), 55, Oxford Road, MANCHESTER

THE "JOHN BULL" GUARANTEE.—*We guarantee the goods advertised by every firm whose trade announcement appears in* JOHN BULL, *i.e., we hold ourselves responsible for their being of the quality and standard represented at the time of purchase and the date of payment, either in full or by first instalment, and if any reader can show just cause for dissatisfaction with the purchase of any goods made through any trade advertisement in our columns, we will refund the purchase-money, provided the goods complained of are sent to us within one week from the date of original purchase. All communications should be addressed to* JOHN BULL, *Advertisement Department, 92, Long Acre, London, W.C.2.*

£1 1s. PRIZES will be awarded to readers sending best alternative 2-line verses for any of the articles shown below. One prize each week for each article. Any number of attempts may be sent, but each must be written on a separate postcard.

Similar Competitions in *Passing Show* and *London Mail*, in which *John Bull* readers may compete.

FAMILIAR PACKAGES and Trade Marks

54 GUINEA PRIZES.

The Winning Couplets in No. 1 Competition are given below. Winners' names at bottom of page.

All verses become the property of "John Bull." Decision of Advertisement Manager to be final. Address: Familiar Packages No. 6, Advt. Dept., "John Bull," Long Acre, London, W.C.

Latest date for this week's: Feb. 21.

Take a man add a maid, serve the quintet of nooks,
And garnish with Mackintosh's Toffee de Luxe.

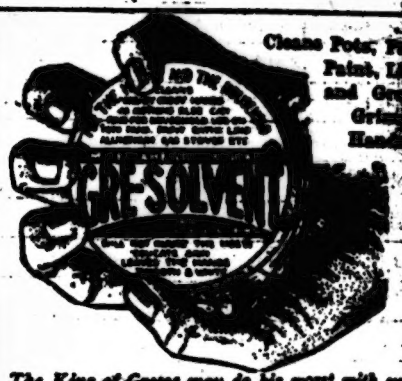
A pure rich Danish pasture cream that Does to a turn.
A bit-bit for the table—morning, evening, and at push.

"DANO"

PURE RICH DANISH PASTURE CREAM
"The Cream of Denmark's Best."
1/4 per 6-oz tin. 2/3 per 15-oz tin.

Solomon in all his glory had nothing half so rare—
As Clarnico Lily Caramels—a sweet beyond compare.

ANZORA
CREAM and VIOLA
Both Master the Hair
1/6 & 2/6.
From all Chemists & Hairdressers.
The hour of midnight struck—
Jim's hair stood up on end—
The ghost appeared and said:
"You need Anzora, friend"!
Anzora Unto-Hazeline Soap
Perfumed—the finest Shampoo.



Cleans Pots, Pans, Paint, Linos, and Greasy Grime from Hands.

The King of Greece may do his worst with underhand manœuvres,
Gre-solvent, to the rescue—the King of Greece removers.

The Drummer Dyes have a welcome ring,
For (like the drum) they take a lot of "Beating."

DRUMMER DYES
Halve the Dress Bill.

Hark! a Silver Knock!
Toffee Sweet Kind,
many a Guess,
The "Product to Please more"—it's good both to Taste and Eyes.

Your Leather Footwear
Your Motor Leathers

A Diamond for its trade mark, and worth its weight in gold,
You've a treasure in a leather, if your boots are Dri-ped soled.

See the "DRI-PED" diamond, stamped in purple every few inches on sole and heel. None is genuine unstamped "DRI-PED."

Whatever your class, whatever your creed,
The "Winner" provides the music you need.

The bulldir builds houses with bricks and mortir,
Bovr'l builds bodies with jus' hot water.

"Butter, my dear? But look at the price!
Try Brito—it's nourishing, wholesome and nice.

BRITO MARGARINE
The Nation's Choice.

It may be bad form to brag before the hosts,
But when it is Turnwright's it's jolly good toasts.

Astronomers have told us of planets and of stars,
But Cosmos Lamps with radiant light, at small cost, outshine Mars.

Messrs. Nestlé will award an extra Guinea to the winner of this couplet.

NESTLÉ'S GUARANTEE

Refuse Imitations
Reject other Prices.

Cash Prices **8½d. & 1/4½** Per Tin.

The more I taste, the more I see,
There's value in a Guarantee.

'Tis the charm of the cream, the flavour elusive,
That renders the custard Creamola exclusive.

CREAMOLA
The Queen of Custards.

"Kiwi"
Any shade of Brown desired and Black of all Tones.
The Quality Boot Polish

In studying economy you'll find that Kiwi's fine,
Instead of blacking boots each morn, a rub revives the shine.

RESULT OF No. 4 COMPETITION.

ANZORA.
Frank Merchant, West Kensington, W.14.
BRITO.
Arthur Newton, Liverpool.
BOVRIL.
D. Harris Littlehampton.
CLARNICO CARAMELS.
F. H. Robinson, Shoreham.
CREAMOLA.
F. A. Lee, Nuneaton.
COSMOS LAMPS.
A. Burnett, Dublin.
DANO.
Miss I. N. Rogers, Brook Green, W.14.
DRIPED.
William Taylor, Stockport.
DRUMMER DYES.
Sidney H. Westover, Canterbury.
EUCRYL.
Miss M. Wright, Derby.
GRE-SOLVENT.
P. R. Laird Bromley.
IDEAL MILK.
Wm. Hambridge, Banbury.
KIWI.
Frank L. C. Irwin, Huddersfield.
NESTLÉ'S MILK.
F. Le Huquet, Oxford.
MACKINTOSH'S TOFFEE.
Miss Edith Amery, Somerset.
SHARP'S.
W. Barrett, Plumb.
TURNWRIGHT'S.
E. Conway Hall, Manchester.
WINNER RECORDS.
H. Marshall, Leyton, E. 10.

Messrs. Nestlé will award an extra Guinea to the winner of this couplet.

IDEAL MILK

6½d. Per Tin. 1/- Per Large Tin.

MILK, whole MILK, and nothing but MILK, three times richer in cream than ordinary milk.

REFUSE IMITATIONS.

Ideal is the milk which is not made to sell.
It will never be beaten—a rare British lily.

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